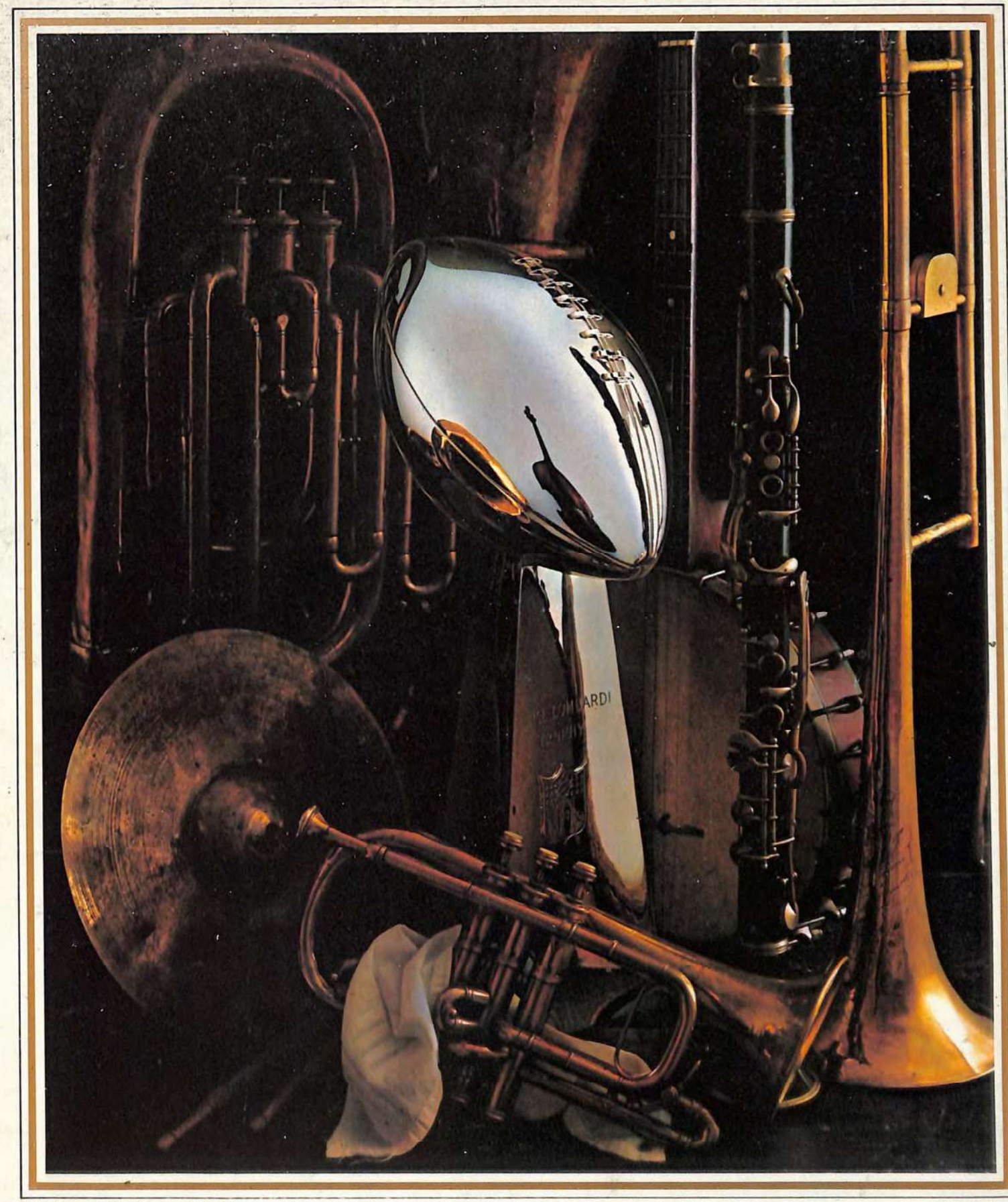

AFC Versus NFC for the NFL Championship and the Vince Lombardi Trophy • Sunday, January 25, 1981 • 5:00 P.M. • Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans

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SUPER BOWL XV

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And there's more to gain by driving a Rabbit than valuable yards.

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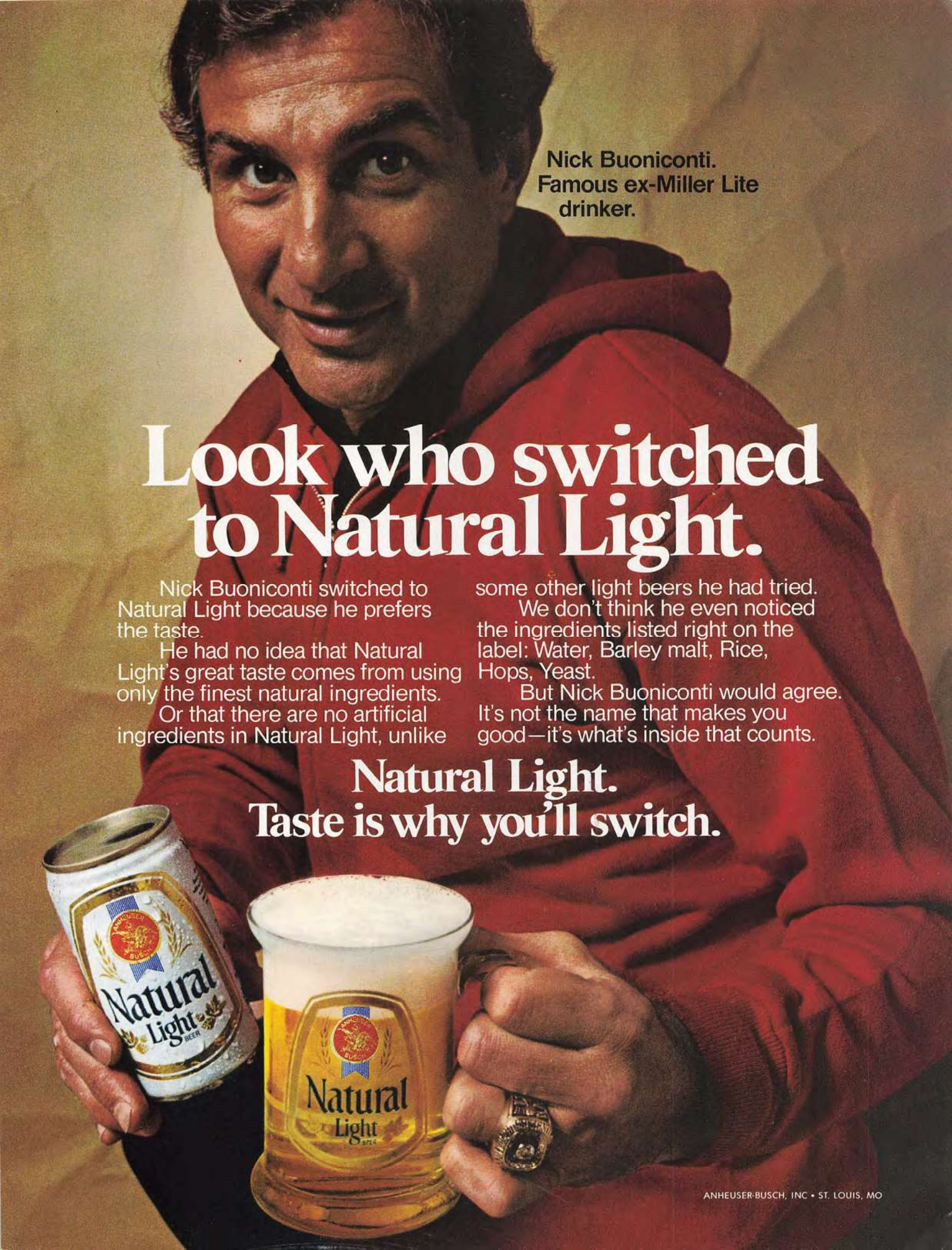
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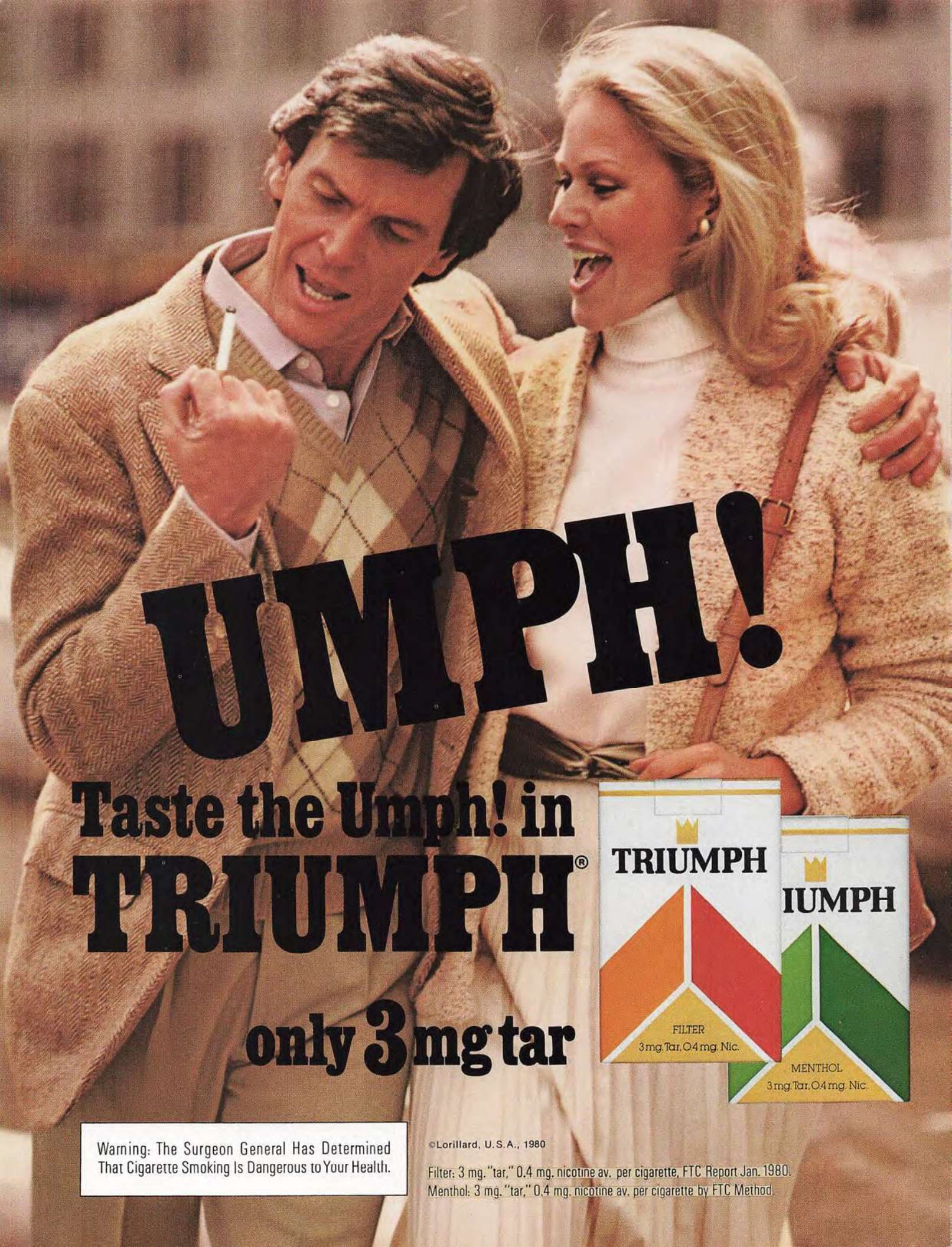

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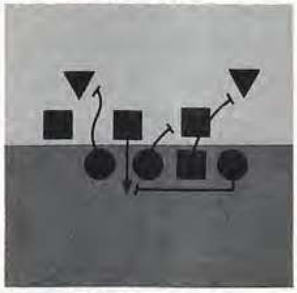

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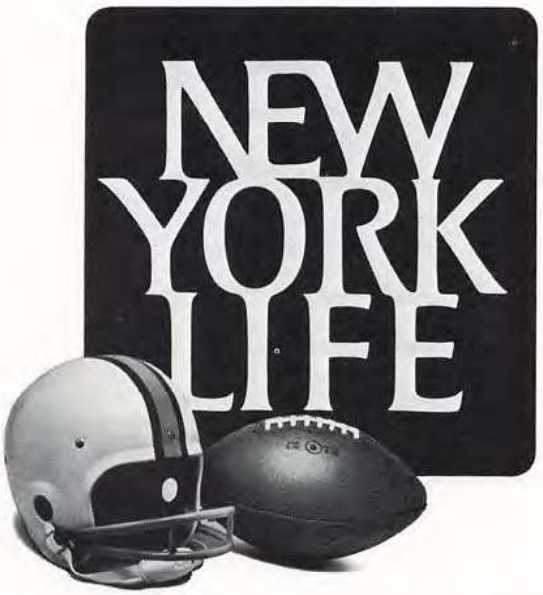

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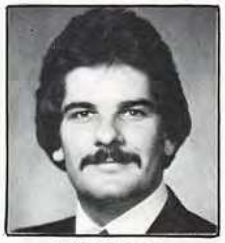

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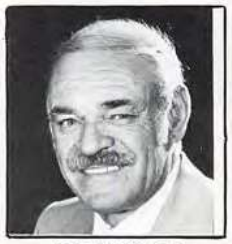

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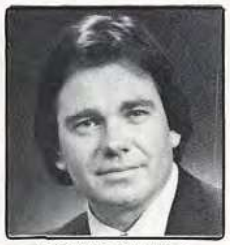

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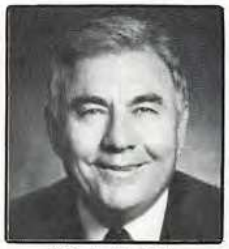

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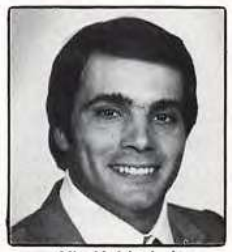

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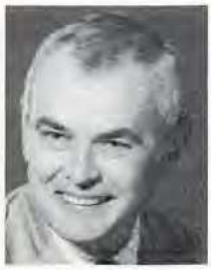

Bill McGrane

The Super Bowl is America's biggest one-day sporting event, but it still may come as a surprise that game XIV last year was covered by more than 1,900 sportswriters and electronic media people. An astonishing total of more than 4 million print words were generated. Since monumental events such as the Super Bowl have a tendency to get bigger and bigger, we probably can expect more coverage and more words than ever before at this year's game.

However, there is one journalistic coterie at the Super Bowl that has gotten *smaller* over the years—the Super Bowl Press Club, made up of the 31 journalists and photographers who have covered all 14 Super Bowls (see below for a complete list of members in the exclusive club).

The Super Bowl Press Club membership is well represented in the Super Bowl XV program. Dick Connor, a member of the club and currently president of the Pro Football Writers Association, wrote the Open Forum column that begins on page 19. Connor, of the *Denver Post*, uses vignettes from past games to tell what the Super Bowl has meant to him.

Larry Felser, of the *Buffalo Evening News*, also is a member of the Super Bowl Press Club. He takes part in a Point-Counterpoint debate with Tex Maule on the subject of conference superiority—which is better, the AFC or NFC, and why? Maule, Felser's worthy opponent in the debate that begins on page 32, is not a member of the Super Bowl Press Club. But if there were a plain Super Press Club, he'd be in it for sure. Maule served as an editor and football writer for *Sports Illustrated* for 19 years.

Marie Lombardi, widow of the late Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Vince Lombardi, will be this year's participant in the coin toss ceremony. Mrs. Lombardi, with her rich memories of life with a pro football legend, is interviewed by Jack Hand beginning on page 25. Hand also has had a long involvement with pro football. He covered the game for *Associated Press* for 27 years before moving to the league office and NFL Films in various public relations capacities. Hand missed membership in the Super Bowl Press Club by one game. "We were on strike at the *AP* the day Joe Namath guaranteed the Jets would win Super Bowl III," he says.

Another NFL veteran writer and longtime *PRO!* contributor is Bill McGrane, who writes the regular *PRO!* feature called "Insight." His poignant effort in this issue, on a former Super Bowl player watching the game years later with his son, appears on page 16.

Included in this issue is Steve Cassady's look back at Super Bowl XIV, one of the most—if not *the* most—exciting Super Bowls of all. His quarter-by-quarter review begins on page 39.

THE SUPER BOWL PRESS CLUB

Here is a list of the 31 media members who have covered all 14 Super Bowl games:

John Biever, photographer, *Milwaukee Journal;* Vernon Biever, photographer, Port Washington, Wisconsin; Dave Brady, *Washington Post;* Si Burick, *Dayton Daily News;* Robert Burnes, *St. Louis-Globe Democrat;* Dick Connor, *Denver Post;* Art Daley, *Green Bay Press Gazette;* Malcolm Emmons, photographer, Delaware, Ohio; Larry Felser, *Buffalo Evening News;* Mel Durslag, *Los Angeles Herald Examiner;* Jerry Green, *Detroit News;* Walter looss, Jr., photographer, *Sports Illustrated;* Jerry Izenberg, *Newark Star-Ledger;* Ray Kelly, *Camden Courier-Post;* Dave Klein, *Newark Star-Ledger;* Bud Lea, *Milwaukee Sentinel;* Augie Lio, *Passaic Herald;* Will McDonough, *Boston Globe;* Jim Murray, *Los Angeles Times;* Norman Miller, *New York Daily News;* Keith Morris, *Sports Illustrated;* Bob Oates, *Los Angeles Times;* Mickey Palmer, photographer, New York; Dick Peebles, *Houston Chronicle;* Ed Pope, *Miami Herald;* Dick Raphael, photographer, Marblehead, Massachusetts; Cooper Rollow, *Chicago Tribune;* Gene Rosewell, *New York Post;* John Seguin, Canadian Broadcasting Corp.; John Steadman, *Baltimore News-American;* Tony Tomsic, photographer, *Cleveland Press.*

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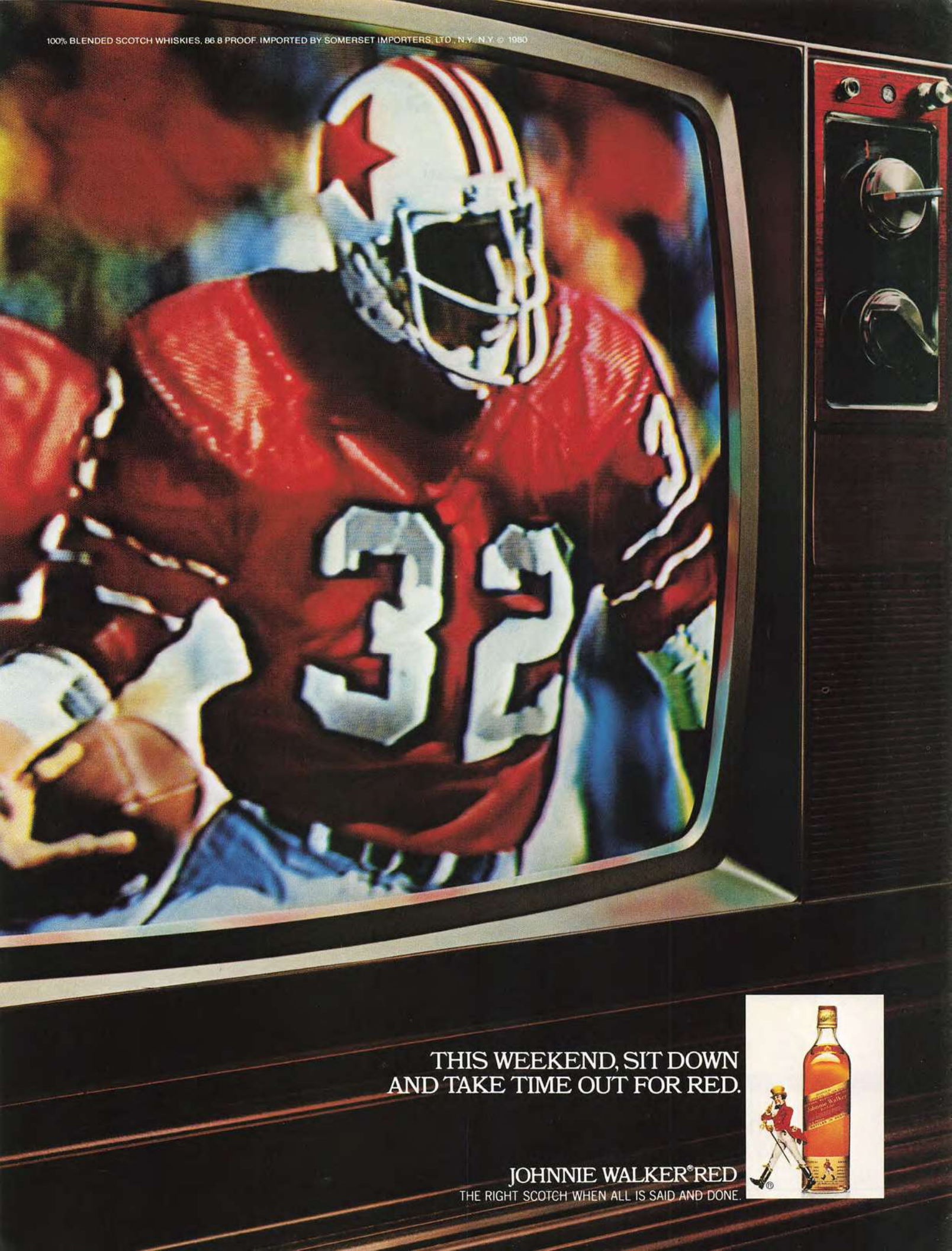

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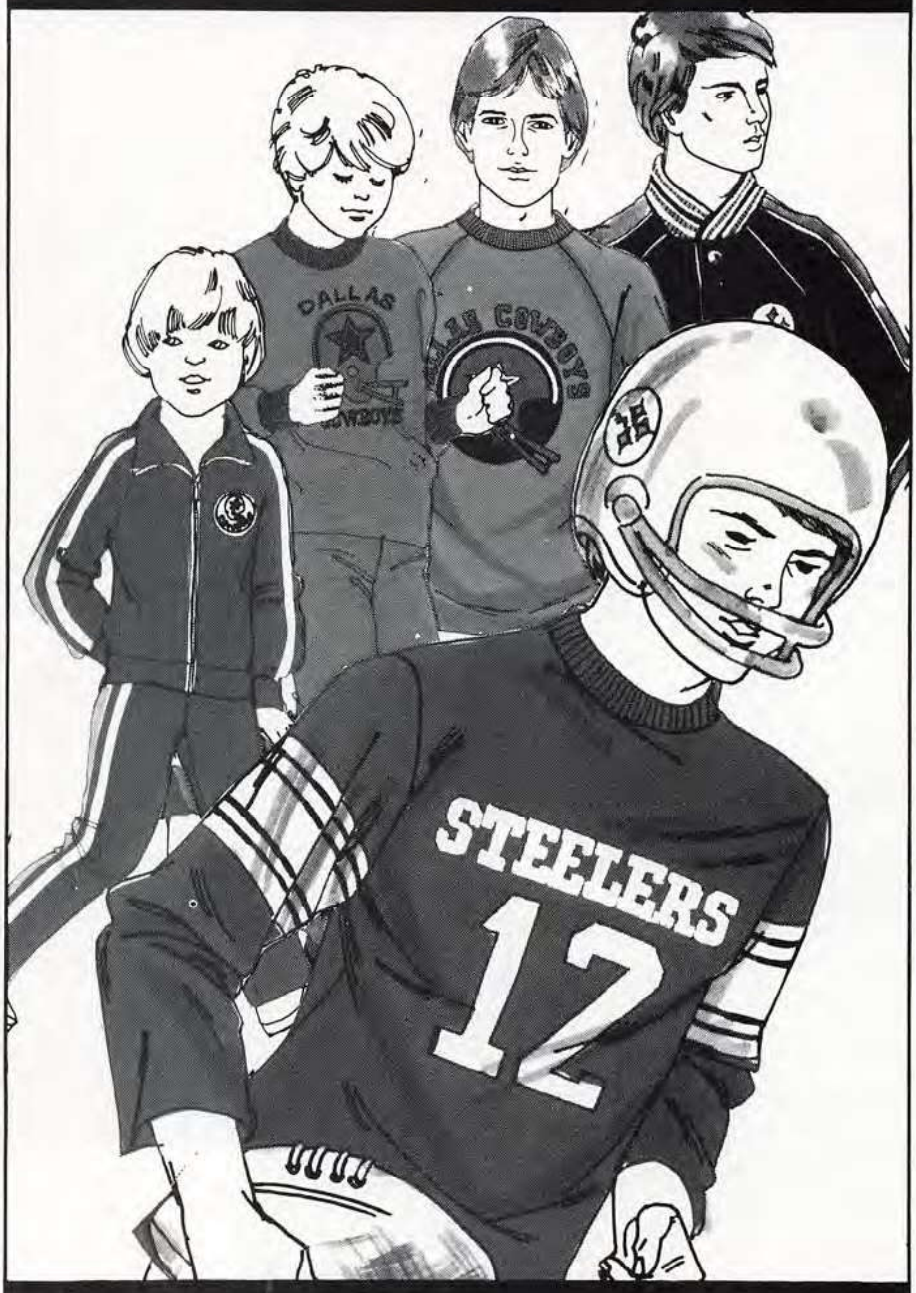

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Game Facts

SUPER BOWL XV

At stake—The National Football League championship for the Vince Lombardi trophy.
Participants—The champions of the American Football Conference (AFC) and the National Football Conference (NFC) of the NFL.
Date—Sunday, January 25, 1981.
Starting time—5:00 P.M. CST.
Site—Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans, Louisiana.
Capacity—75,186.
Playing surface—AstroTurf.
Players' shares—$18,000 to each member of the winning team and $9,000 to each member of the losing team; approximately $1.6 million total for the personnel of the competing clubs.
Players' uniforms—The NFC champions will be the home team and use the west bench. The AFC champions will be the visiting team and use the east bench. The NFC champion, as home team, will have the choice of wearing colored or white jerseys.
Television—NBC.
Radio—CBS.
Officials—There will be seven officials—referee, umpire, line judge, head linesman, back judge, side judge, and field judge—and two alternates.
Ball—The football used in all NFL games is a Wilson.
Official time—The scoreboard clock will be official.
Sudden death—If the game is tied at the end of regulation 60 minutes, it will continue in sudden death overtime. The team scoring first—by safety, field goal, or touchdown—will win. NFL preseason and regular season games have a maximum of one 15-minute overtime period, but in postseason games, play continues by 15-minute periods, with a two-minute intermission between each, until there is a winner.
Trophy—The winning team receives permanent possession of the Vince Lombardi trophy, a sterling silver trophy created by Tiffany & Company.
Attendance history—A total of 1,439,408 persons have attended the first 14 Super Bowl games. The largest crowd was 103,985 at Super Bowl XIV.
Game history—Super Bowl XV is the fifteenth game in a series that began January 15, 1967 when Green Bay, representing the National Football League, defeated Kansas City of the American Football League 35-10 at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. Green Bay also won Super Bowl II, defeating the AFL's Oakland Raiders 33-14 on January 14, 1968 at the Orange Bowl in Miami.

AFL teams won Super Bowls III and IV. The New York Jets defeated Baltimore 16-7 on January 12, 1969 in Miami, and Kansas City stopped Minnesota 23-7 on January 11, 1970 at Tulane Stadium in New Orleans.

Baltimore defeated Dallas 16-13 at Miami on January 17, 1971 in Super Bowl V. Dallas returned to Super Bowl VI and beat Miami 24-3 on January 16, 1972 in New Orleans.

Miami posted successive Super Bowl victories in games VII (14-7 over Washington on January 14, 1973 at Los Angeles) and VIII (24-7 over Minnesota on January 13, 1974 at Rice Stadium in Houston).

Pittsburgh won back-to-back world championships, defeating Minnesota 16-6 in game IX on January 12, 1975 in New Orleans, and Dallas 21-17 in game X at Miami on January 18, 1976.

The AFC won a fifth consecutive Super Bowl crown in game XI when Oakland stopped Minnesota 32-14 in Pasadena's Rose Bowl on January 9, 1977.

Dallas won its second NFL championship in Super Bowl XII with a 27-10 victory over Denver on January 15, 1978 at New Orleans's Louisiana Superdome.

Pittsburgh became the only team in NFL history to win three Super Bowls by beating Dallas 35-31 in game XIII, which was played January 21, 1979 in Miami. Pittsburgh's 31-19 victory over Los Angeles in game XIV gave the Steelers a record fourth Super Bowl triumph.
Next game—Super Bowl XVI will be played January 24, 1982 at the Silverdome in Pontiac, Michigan.

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LUXURY IN THE FAST LANE.

Remember yesterday's image of a sports car? It had to be as noisy as a foundry. Ride like a rock. And be as spartan as a monk's cell.

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A man of distinction believes there is no substitute for excellence. He expects it in the things he does. And in the clothes he wears – Imperial® by Haggar.

Haggar has made a donation to the Baltimore Opera Company on behalf of Mrs. Harry C. Meyerhoff.

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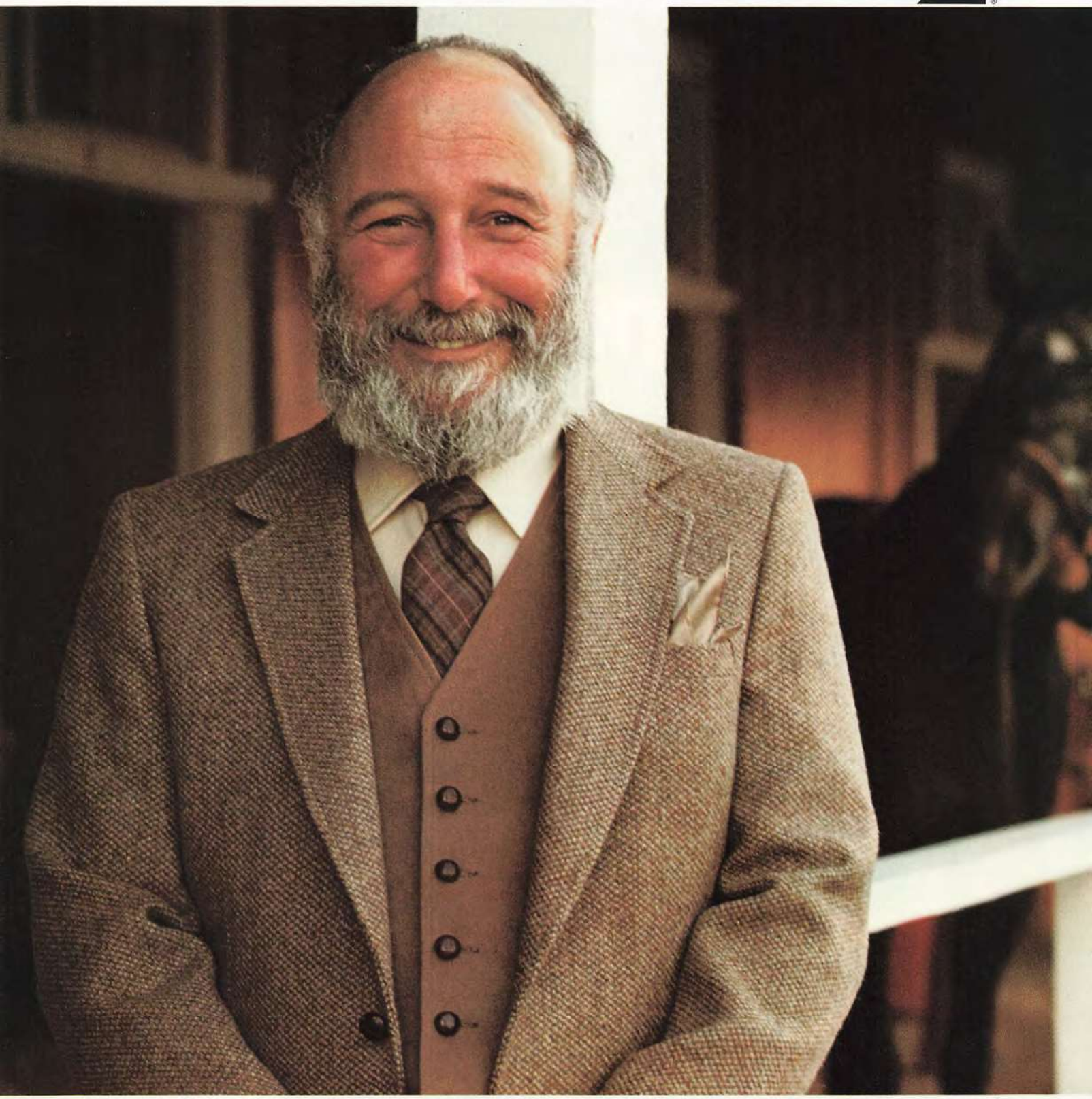

Rich natural fabrics and blends are carefully crafted into fashions distinguished by impeccable styling and uncommon value. Mr. Meyerhoff is wearing an Imperial Barleycorn coat of 100% wool, coordinating vest, and 100% worsted wool slacks. Suggested retail prices: Sport coat, $85. Vest, $25. Slacks, $38. About $148, the ensemble.

Official Signals

Touchdown, Field Goal, or Successful Try

Safety

Time Out

Dead Ball or Neutral Zone Established

First Down

Personal Foul

Ball Illegally Touched, Kicked, or Batted

Delay of Game

No Time Out or Time In With Whistle

Crawling, Interlocking Interference, Pushing, or Helping Runner

Holding

Penalty Refused, Incomplete Pass, Play Over, or Missed Field Goal

Illegal Use of Hands

Pass Juggled Inbounds, Caught Out of Bounds

Illegal Forward Pass

Interference With Forward Pass or Fair Catch

Invalid Fair Catch Signal

Loss of Down

Illegal Contact

Illegal Motion at Snap

Crawling, Pushing, or Helping Runner

Unsportsmanlike Conduct (Non-contact Fouls)

Tripping

Illegal Crackback

Intentional Grounding of Pass

Illegal Cut or Blocking Below the Waist

Touching a Forward Pass or Scrimmage Kick

Player Disqualified

Ineligible Receiver or Ineligible Member of Kicking Team Downfield

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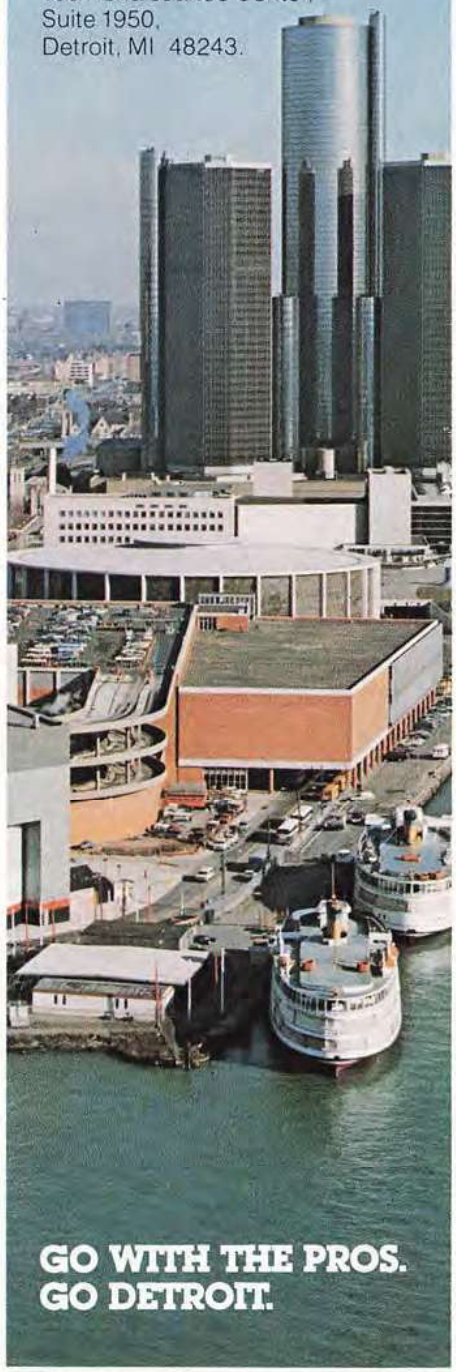

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Sidelights

SUPER BOWL ODDS AND ENDS

Mardi Gras Spectacular

In keeping with the site of today's Super Bowl game, the halftime entertainment will have the flavor of New Orleans's most renowned annual event, Mardi Gras. The Mardi Gras princess will be lowered from the ceiling of the Superdome to begin the halftime show, heralding a pageant of Mardi Gras floats, each featuring people in colorful, authentic costumes and masks. Accompanying the floats will be numerous musical and dance groups, such as the fantastically costumed Mardi Gras Indians, Pete Fountain's Half-Fast group, and genuine New Orleans funeral bands and marchers. And, oh yes, even if you haven't touched a drop of alcohol all day, count on seeing pink elephants in the parade.

More halftime music and entertainment will be provided by the Southern University marching band from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, which also will provide the pregame entertainment and accompany renowned big band singer Helen O'Connell on the national anthem. For the anthem, the Golden Eagle color guard group from Quincy, Illinois, will be presenting the United States flag along with the flags of the 18 states and the District of Columbia that have representative National Football League franchises.

The Big Broadcast

Dick Enberg

Merlin Olsen

Nobody is ever going to accuse NBC of not going all-out in its television coverage of Super Bowl XV. The network has assembled—in quantity—some of the most highly sophisticated video equipment available, including 15 cameras, 16 tape and replay devices, two Arvin Echo machines (to store still pictures from videotape), a video compressor (to project insets onto the main image), and a character generator for on-air graphics. All this technical machinery requires three miles of camera cable, four miles of audio cable, and a crew of 125 people.

Then there's the talent in front of that video hardware. The pregame show this year features Bryant Gumbel, Mike Adamle, and Bob Trumpy. The game itself will feature play-by-play man Dick Enberg and analyst Merlin Olsen in the booth. Contributing analysts John Brodie and Len Dawson will add further insights throughout the broadcast, which will be directed by Ted Nathanson. Don Ohlmeyer is the executive producer, with Ken Fouts directing the replay unit.

The game will be carried live by more than 225 television stations in the U.S. and many foreign countries, and will be broadcast overseas over the American Forces network.

CBS is providing the Super Bowl XV radio coverage, with Jack Buck and Hank Stram at the microphones.

Be a SuperPro!

Now youngsters aged 8-14 can be part of a new NFL fan club, the NFL SuperPro Club! It's a great way for young football fans to be involved with their favorite NFL teams and stars. And it's lots of fun, with a a special membership card, T-shirt decal, and regular newsletters geared toward keeping all NFL SuperPros up on NFL action. The $6 yearly membership fee also includes a big official NFL SuperPro membership kit, exclusive offers throughout the year, and great SuperPro contests and prizes.

For membership information, write:
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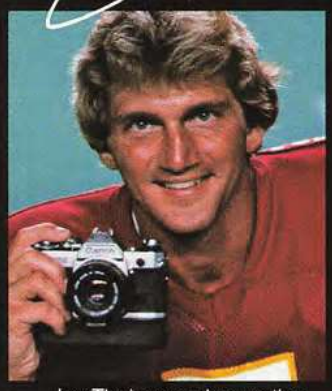
Patch It Up

Attention Super Bowl memorabilia collectors! The NFL has commissioned the design of unique embroidered patches to commemorate each of the 15 Super Bowls. Beginning in 1981, Lion Brothers of Owings Mills, Maryland, the manufacturers of the patches, will offer complete sets to the public for retail purchase for the first time.

Joe Theismann SATISFIED



Joe Theismann knows the meaning of precision, and the importance of split-second timing. As a professional football quarterback, the "family" he spends Sunday afternoons with won't sit still for a picture. They don't smile too often, either. So when Joe wants to take pictures of the Washington Redskins, he uses a Canon AE-1.

The Canon AE-1 is a quality camera, combining the finest in optics and mechanical engineering with modern electronics that assure sharp, clear, professional-looking pictures every time. Joe Theismann has a real family, too, and the lightweight easy-to-use AE-1 is perfect for everyday picture taking as well. For sports action or on a family vacation, it satisfies his needs. In fact, since he first started using his AE-1, photography has become his favorite occupation. Next to football.

Joe Theismann isn't alone. In the time since its introduction, more than one million Canon AE-1's have been bought in the United States alone and it's still going strong. Making it far and away the most successful camera of its type in history. A million satisfied customers must know something!

What they know is this. The Canon AE-1 was, and still is unmatched for its combination of cost and performance. It has shutter-priority automation that's as simple as focus and click. You can get sharper pictures, because you select a shutter speed fast enough to prevent blur and the camera adjusts the lens for the light. You get great pictures automatically, and can shoot with full confidence that every shot will be as sharp and bright as the next.

And, satisfied Canon AE-1 owners know some other smart things too. They know that special Canon "A" Series Speedlites, like the 177 A, make the AE-1 the most automatic flash available. They set the AE-1's shutter speed and aperture as soon as they're ready to fire. You just can't make a mistake.

They also know that with the Power Winder A, they'll never miss a shot of the action because they can take fast single frames or sequences as fast as two frames per second.

The Canon AE-1 can bring you in close to the action when you're far back. Or widen a tight shot into a sweeping vista. With more that forty of the world's finest lenses. Lenses which have been hailed by professionals as some of the best they've ever experienced.

Want to satisfy your curiosity? Ask your local Canon dealer why the Canon AE-1 is his best-selling automatic reflex camera. When you buy your AE-1 you'll be opening a door into creative photography (and fun) that you may have never realized was there.

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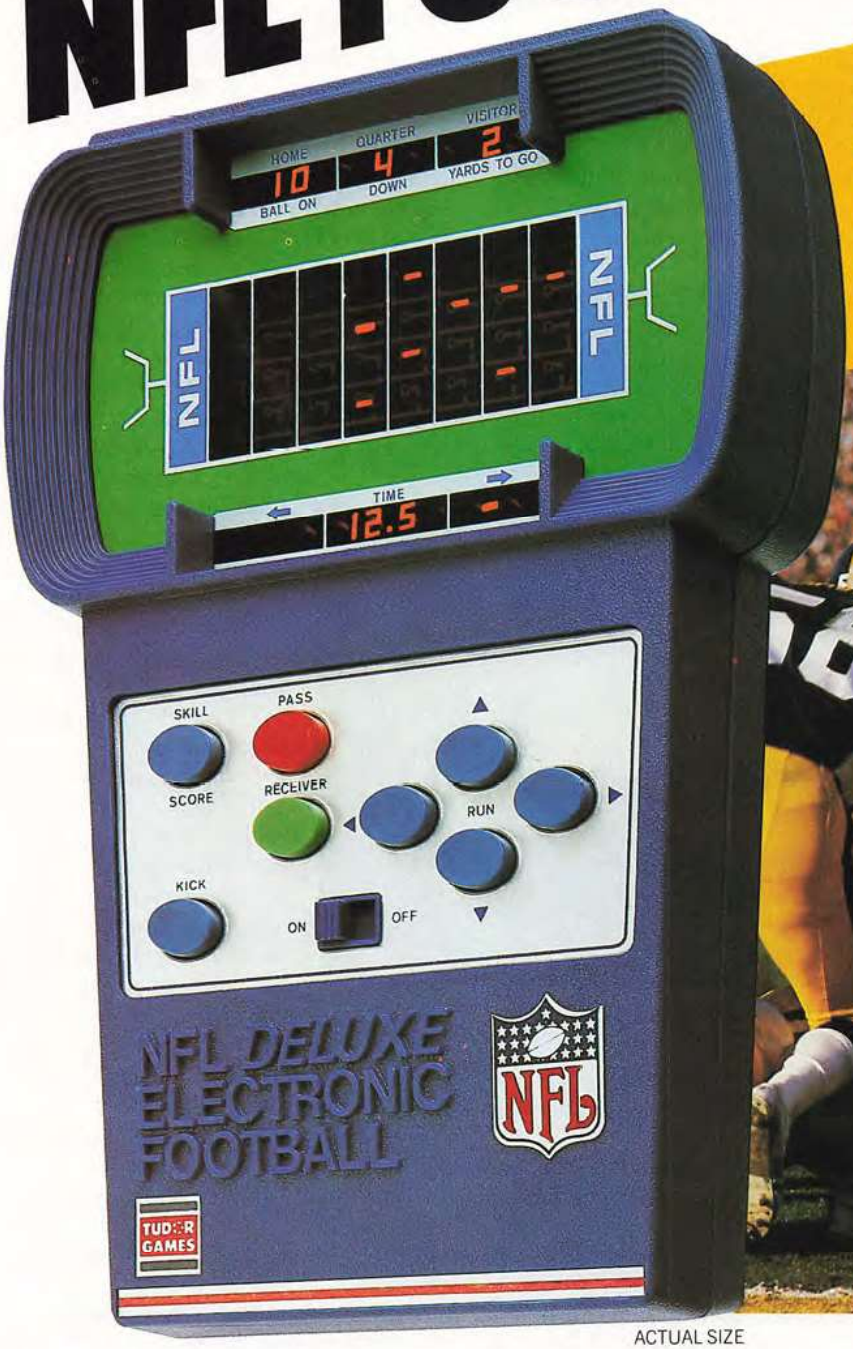

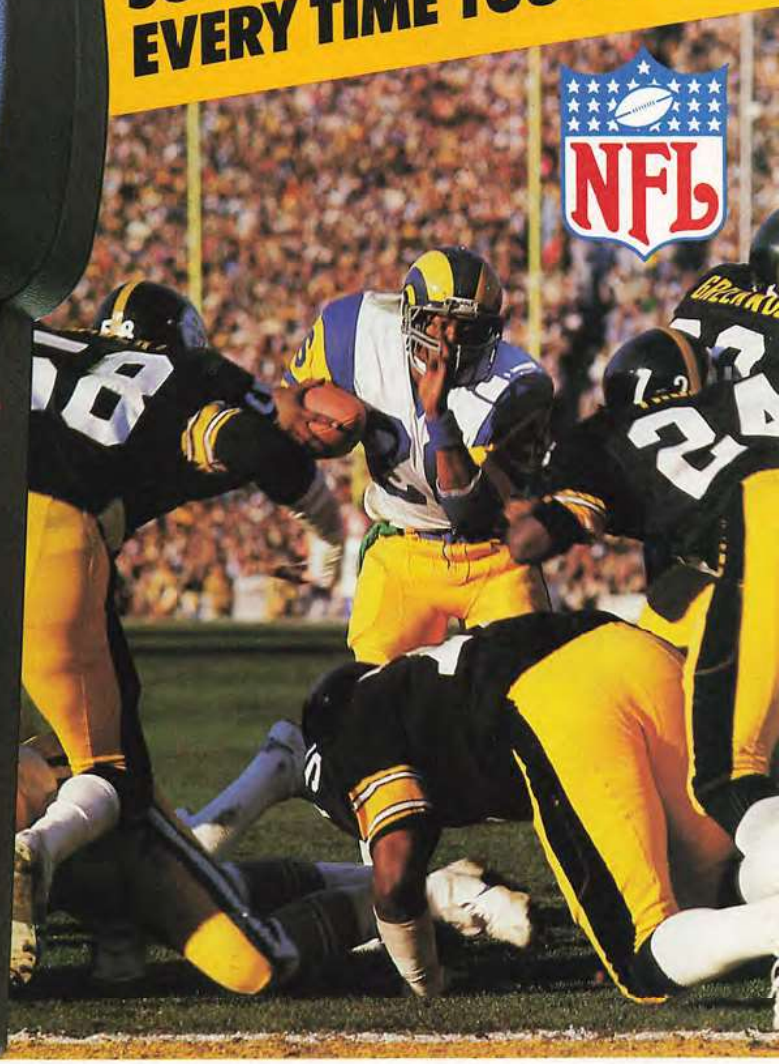

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Insight

ON HAVING BEEN THERE by BILL McGRANE

The surface plug described a low, shallow arc and then plopped into the coffee-brown water, not a yard off the deadfall.

The boy, who was 12, grinned through a thatch of red-gold hair and freckles.

"Pretty good, huh?"

The man hid the pleasure that wanted to show in his face.

"Pretty good, providin' you don't go and yank on it too quick. Let it be, now ... remember, I said no reelin' till there's no ripple."

A squirrel chattered his indignation from a bare-limbed oak, and on the other side of the lake, starting slow and heavy as an old piston-driven aircraft, a heron thrashed up awkwardly from the water's surface, only to become possessed of an incredible grace once he was airborne.

"Now, Dad?"

"Now'd be fine."

The bass waited a decent interval. He lay up, heavy-shouldered and haughty, in the comfort of the underwater brush pile. He lay up until the boy put three of those deft little hiccup-twitches on the lure, bothering the water's surface ever so slightly. Then the bass uncoiled and burst up out of the water.

Three memorable minutes later, the landing net scooped the fish out of the water, and seven pounds of bass glared up in defiance from the bottom of the boat.

The boy's eyes reflected the purity of his joy.

"What'll I do now?"

"If it was me," he said, "I believe I'd let out a holler."

They fished until 10, stringing five more good bass.

"We better get back," the boy cautioned. "Mom said eleven o'clock mass, and no bull."

His father harumphed. "Your mom never said 'bull' in her life." But he fired the big Merc anyway and ran it flat-out back to the city.

Coming out of church was the first time he'd really thought much about it ... he'd always been more a doer than a watcher.

Don Weller

A fellow tapped his shoulder walking down the front steps.

"Reckon you'll be watching hard today, won't you Johnny?"

He broke his puzzlement with a smile. "Oh, you mean the football game?"

The fellow snorted and his smile widened.

"Well, I *guess* I mean the football game! I mean, how many Super Bowls do they play every year?" He pushed close.

"Who do you like, Johnny? Hell, you been there ... which one of 'em you like?"

He stepped back from the man and flexed shoulders that had let him back up a line for 11 pro seasons.

"Oh, I don't know...heck, I don't see that much of it anymore...."

The intruder chuckled. "You're sly, you are ... you got it figured, but you ain't sayin'."

He nodded and smiled, turning toward his family. "Good to see you."

Late that afternoon, leaning against the refrigerator, he argued with himself while his wife was busy getting the top crust right on an apple pie.

"I want to watch, sort of...but I don't want to watch. I mean, you know I never watch it on TV ....

"Course, I suppose the boy will want me to watch with him."

Her back was turned, so he couldn't see her smile.

"He probably will, John, but you just do what you think's best."

The pregame show didn't hold his attention because it was so long and, to his thinking, overblown.

But the memories still came ...

The hotel room had been hot and wouldn't cool down and he'd blamed not being able to sleep on that. Indeed, he'd been up and dressed and sat 30 minutes listening to his roomie snore, waiting for the coffee shop to open.

He'd lifted the coffee cup deliberately to keep the tremor out of his hand. A club guy had come in and asked if he could share the booth. They got on well together.

"You scared, John?"

"Not scared ... that's not it."

"You think they're better than us?"

"Nope. I never think that. I just .... See, I've been in this thing since the fifth grade. You know, I played on a real, organized football team when I was in the fifth grade. And every year since. Now, today's the chance of my lifetime. Damn few players ever get this far. It's weighty...thinking that all those years come down to today."

His son's voice blanked the screen of memory.

"You never played in that dome, did you, Dad?"

"No, son. We played outdoors, over at Tulane."

They hadn't won. They'd busted a gut, but they hadn't won.

Now, they were introducing the players, they were running out onto the field. Even on the television, he could identify with what he saw in those sweat-bright faces. Sitting in the easy chair, he raised a hand to his face, masking his profile from his son. His son wouldn't understand his tears.

He blinked, and marveled that the thrill could still run through him so.

"You think it'll be a good game, Dad?"

He cleared his throat noisily.

"I think it'll be a terrific game, son," he said.

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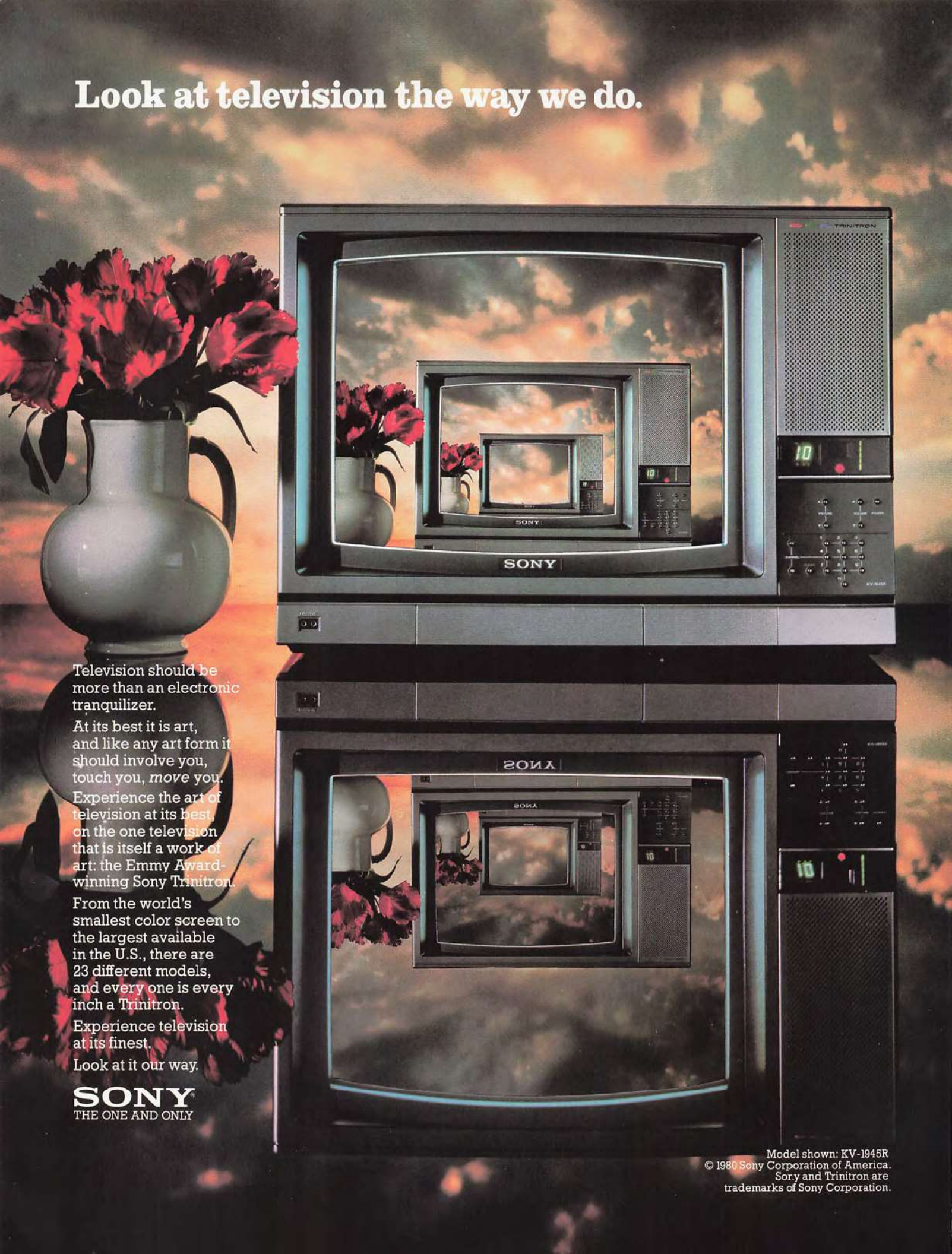

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Open Forum

XIV YEARS OF MEMORIES by DICK CONNOR

He sat there, his cigar dead, his eyes lively, laugh-filled, an old-fashioned cap clutched in one hand. You knew the 42-year wait had been worth the moment he was enjoying right now.

"Coach Noll's press conference will begin in the grand ballroom on the third floor in fifteen minutes," came the voice over the press room public address.

Art Rooney removed the cigar, studying the pulpy end with immense satisfaction. He smiled. His eyes crinkled behind glasses so thick they resembled the bottoms of Coke bottles.

"Chuck Noll. He's a nice man," Rooney said. He was upstaging his own coach, and he knew it. Here was the owner of the Pittsburgh Steelers, in a truly Big Game at last. A couple of weeks earlier, in Oakland, he had refused to go into the dressing room when his team qualified for Super Bowl IX, insisting "This is *their* day."

But now, in January of 1975, as a thunderstorm gathered over New Orleans on the Friday before his team was to meet Minnesota in Super Bowl IX, Art Rooney was going to savor his own special time. Not even Chuck Noll would mind.

If a poll ever were taken to determine the most popular owner in the National Football League, it would be for second place. Rooney, 73 years old on this rainy Friday, had long since clinched the number one spot.

"Coach Noll's press conference will begin in 10 minutes . . . "

Rooney kept rolling the cigar with the soggy tip. He had a winner at last. "When you've lost for as long as we did, you begin to wonder if you're ever going to win," said the man whose was about to begin an awesome domination of this game.

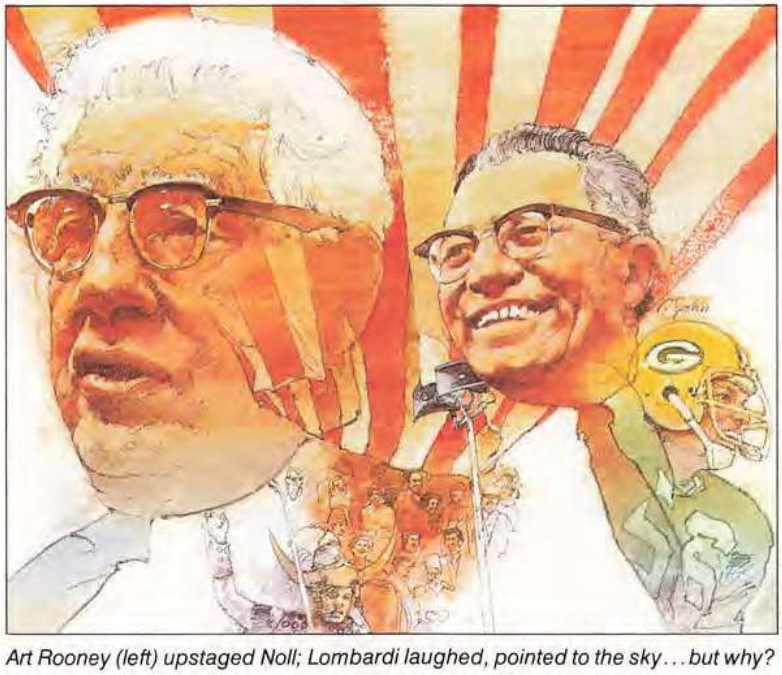
But Rooney was staring at his cigar as if it was the past, not the future.

"There were days right after World War II when you refused to go out for the second half unless they paid you your guarantee," he said.

Thunder rolled over the city. "Gentlemen, we'd like to remind you that Chuck Noll's press conference . . . "

Nobody left. In fact, Rooney, seated at a round table, now was surrounded by more than 50 writers, all of them ignoring Noll and the formal press conference getting underway a floor above.

Watching Art Rooney in his first Super Bowl visit, I suddenly remembered another moment, this one from the first Super Bowl.



Cliff Spohn

Art Rooney (left) upstaged Noll; Lombardi laughed, pointed to the sky . . . but why?

That game matched the legends of the 1960s, Vince Lombardi and his Green Bay Packers, against the upstart Kansas City Chiefs and the American Football League. For the Chiefs, representing the new league that had been scorned, it was a holy war.

Chiefs defensive tackle Buck Buchanan, in fact, had tears in his eyes as he walked through the Coliseum tunnel before taking the field. The emotion was that intense.

Upstairs, in the press box, I saw the sun glint off a yellow-gold helmet in the tunnel and turned field glasses that way. I had never seen the Packers in person. Focus . . . focus . . . Ah . . . There he is, the great man himself . . . and . . . .

Filling my field glasses, there was Vince Lombardi, grinning, laughing, and pointing at something above. His team laughed, too. Didn't they know how serious this was supposed to be? Lombardi himself had told his players he would keep them there all day, all night, all week if necessary, but they were not going to leave until they had defeated the Chiefs.

Yet there he was, flashing that famous grin, up close and personal through the field glasses.

For 15 years now, I have wondered what it was that Lombardi pointed to, and said. Why was he laughing?

I guess I really don't want to know. It's more fun to wonder. That's part of the fascination of this game.

Like recalling Super Bowl IV, when those same Chiefs lined up against the Purple People Eaters, the dreaded Vikings from the North, destroyers of almost everything they met in the NFL that year.

Kansas City quarterback Len Dawson was besieged all week by reports he associated with gamblers. The fountains froze in front of the Chiefs' New Orleans hotel, and it seemed to be an omen, an ice age the Vikings had brought with them.

The stuff of high drama was there. But I choose to remember a horse. And a balloon.

It was pregame, and fans still were filing in. In the section directly below the press box, one 40-seat area, there were 21 purple stocking caps.

They were cheering two balloons, hot air models.

A man dressed as an Indian was to climb into one, a Viking into the other, and they were to float off into the glowering overcast to a rising crescendo of Dixieland band and cheers.

We all watched as the Vikings' balloon, only partially inflated, broke loose.

"My god," someone yelled in the press box, "look at that!" With the Viking pilot aboard, the balloon rose a few feet, drifted crazily, then slammed back to the stadium surface.

It went that way, rising, bouncing, the Viking holding on for dear life, careen-

ing across to the corner, where it crashed into the lower seats and collapsed itself over a public address standard.

If Lombardi's laugh had been a harbinger of success for his Packers, then this was an omen of disaster for the Vikings. And for the halftime show that day, too.

That was when halftime producers attempted to re-stage the Battle of New Orleans. Like the balloon, it never quite got going. The plan was to have the British launch the attack, then be beaten back by Andrew Jackson and his forces.

At one end, extras dressed in British uniforms were ready. At the other, a man dressed as Jackson was mounted on a white horse. He would lead his troops to halftime triumph.

But somebody forgot to tell the horse.

At the first volley, the stallion reared and then biologically disgraced himself before 80,000 fans and national television. He bolted up a nearby tunnel, carrying the man dressed as "Old Hickory" out of sight and out of Super Bowl history while the British rewrote history by routing the Americans.

It's fascinating, too, to watch coaches change in this game. Don Shula was the most guarded of men when he brought his Baltimore Colts to Miami for Super Bowl III in 1969. His answers at that week's interviews were curt and grim.

But by the time he had returned as head coach of the Dolphins in Super Bowl VIII, his entire approach was different. In his fourth appearance, against the Vikings, Shula seemed to enjoy the whole thing.

Somebody asked Shula during a press conference about a remark he made saying the assigning of substandard facilities to Minnesota (in Minnesota's opinion) might fire up the Vikings.

"That was said tongue in cheek," Shula said. "That was one of those things that, when you wrote it, I wanted you to put after it, 'He chuckled.'" The press conference broke up in laughter.

Was his family coming? Yes. How many? "All my brothers and sisters, my parents, my wife, and our children."

Minutes earlier, he had been asked about the famous Tuesday rule, by which athletes were supposed to lead a spartan existence after Tuesday, dedicating themselves to the game ahead. "The Tuesday rule has gotten down to a Saturday night rule, anyway," said Shula.

So the inevitable question arose:

"Well, if your wife is coming, what about . . . ?"

"I don't have a Saturday rule," he said. "Besides, the only thing I ever think of is football, anyhow."

"'He chuckled,'" somebody amended from the back of the room. Shula laughed harder than anyone.

Cliff Spohn

Super Bowl potpourri: Garo's intercepted pass, the Broncos' socks, Lilly's toss.

If Art Rooney had to wait, so did the Denver Broncos.

But, in 1977, Denver ended its 17-year absence from all playoff games by going all the way to New Orleans for a Super Bowl date with the arch-examples of success, the Dallas Cowboys.

I'd like to think I had just a tiny part in a bit of trivia that occurred during long before kickoff and Dallas's eventual victory. During the playoffs, when it began to dawn on those of us who had followed the Broncos from 1960 that something like the Super Bowl could actually happen, I said to general manager Fred Gehrke, "If you guys do get to New Orleans, you ought to special order some of those vertical striped socks and play in them as a reminder of where you've been."

Gehrke liked the idea. And when the team came to the Superdome that Sunday to dress, there, in each man's locker, was a pair of vertical striped socks, brown and yellow, mementoes of another era.

Most swore or scoffed. But three players actually wore them out for warmups, although it's doubtful any of the early arrivals among those orange-clad crazies ever noticed. Still, the striped socks made it to the Super Bowl.

And so, of course, did Dallas. The Cowboys weren't exactly America's Team through the 1960s, as they began to assemble the organization and talent that would form the group that Denver eventually met a few years later.

But, Dallas finally made it, shaking early problems to win the NFC championship and face Baltimore in Super Bowl V on January 17, 1971.

On game day that year, the two teams turned Miami's Orange Bowl into a throwback to sandlot days. There were turnovers, tipped passes, missed receivers, and fumbles through the end zone while hordes of players chased the ball like Keystone Kops. Eventually, it all came down to a 13-13 tie with seconds left, and rookie Baltimore kicker Jim O'Brien waiting for a time out to end so he could attempt a 32-yard field goal. It would be a Colts victory or overtime.

"What about the wind?" O'Brien asked holder Earl Morrall.

"There is no wind," said Morrall. "Kick it." O'Brien did, and when it sailed through the uprights, Dallas defensive tackle Bob Lilly almost tore his head off as he yanked his helmet and hurled it downfield in total rage. It came to rest on the Baltimore 44.

Another memory: Garo Yepremian's improvised pass against Washington was the only blemish as Miami completed a perfect 17-0 season in game VII.

"Chuck Noll's press conference is now underway on the third floor."

Rooney smiled. The mouth end of his cigar was an awful mess. He was not going to quit now.

He stayed on, more than two hours, rain beating against the windows, talking and laughing and remembering.

I never did make it to Chuck Noll's first Super Bowl press conference. And I never have found out why Vince Lombardi was laughing.

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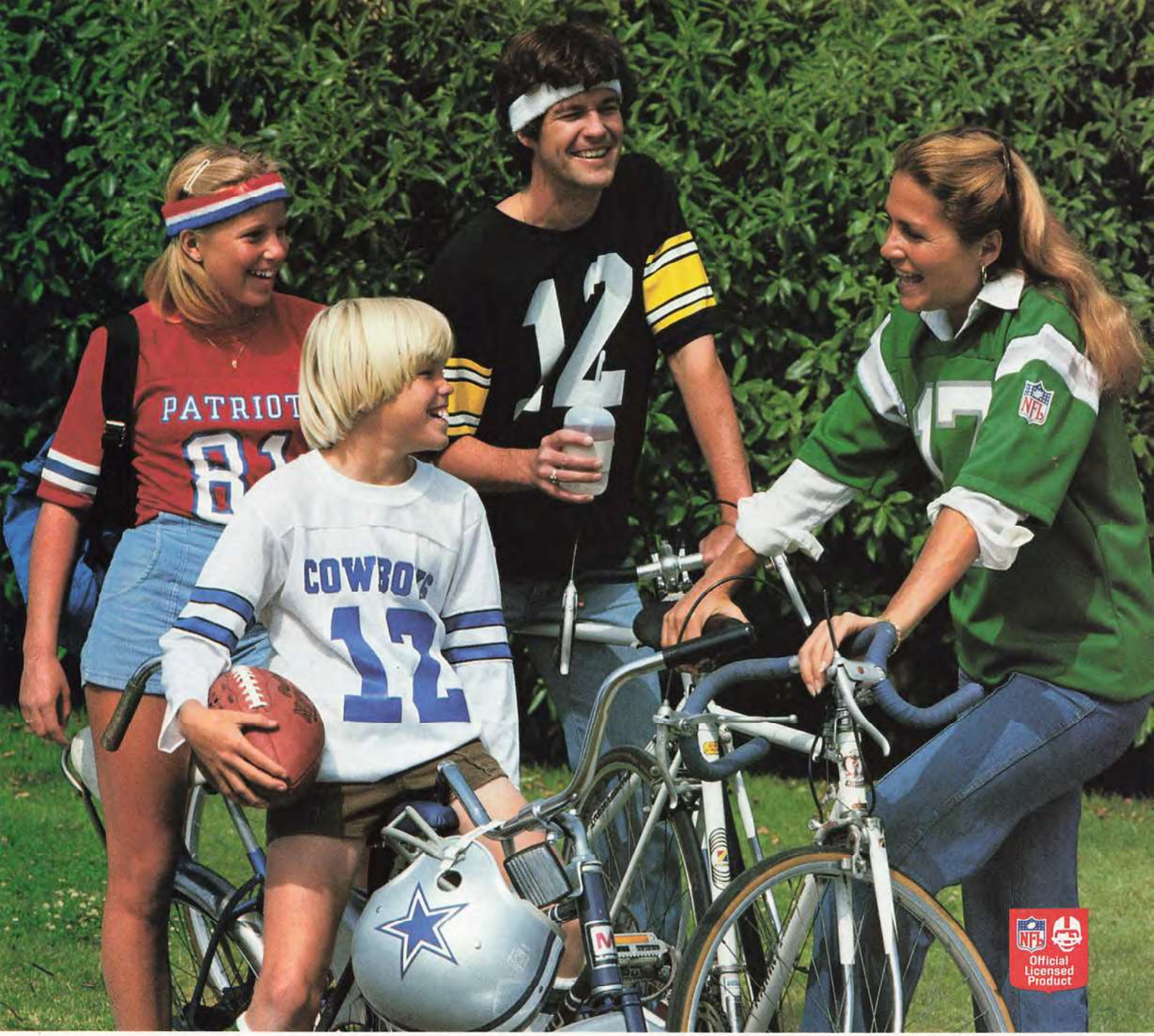

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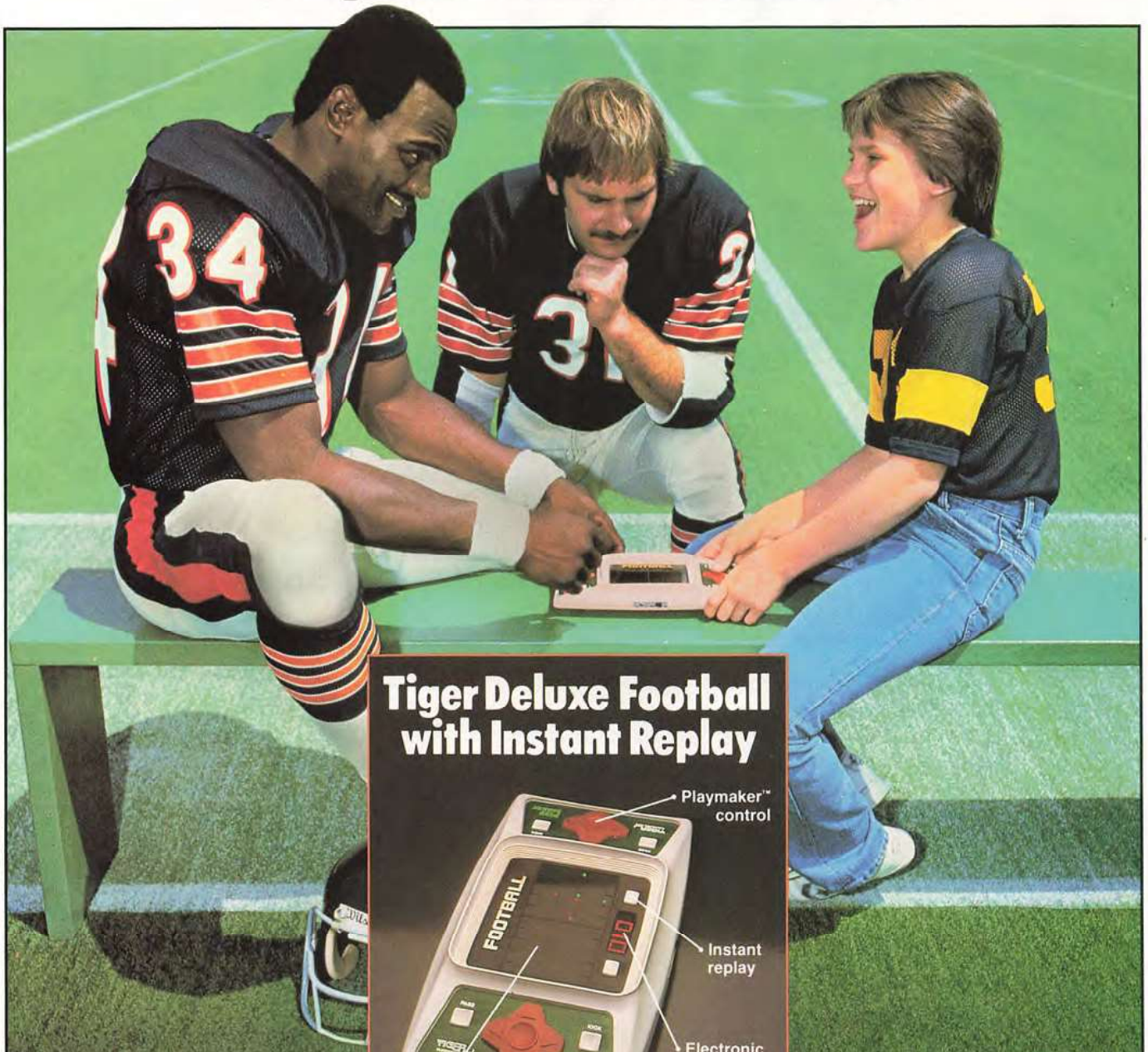

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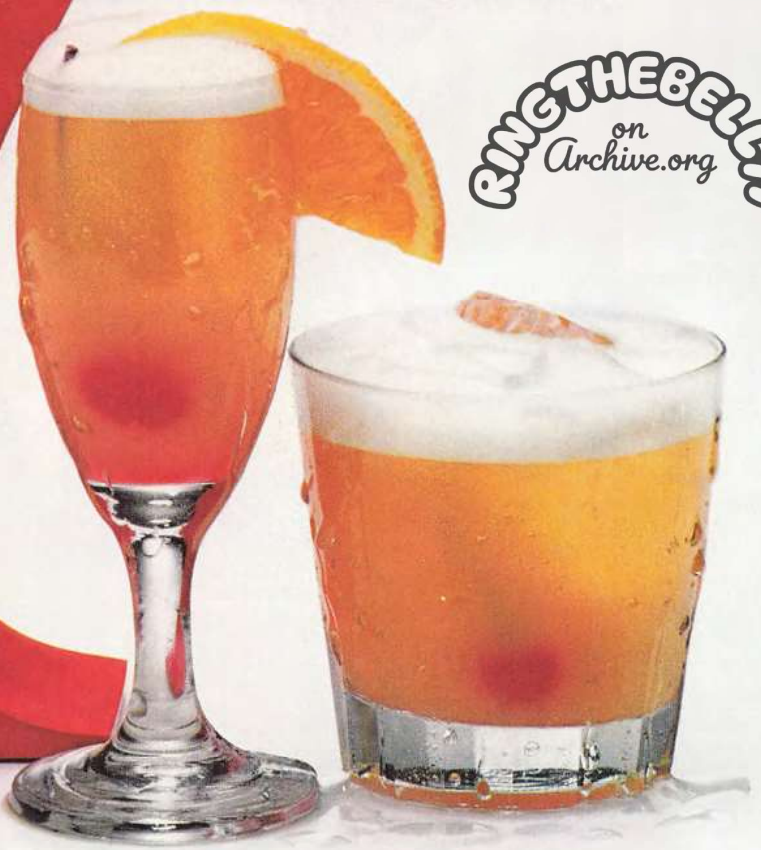

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Remembering Vince

A CONVERSATION WITH MARIE LOMBARDI by JACK HAND

It was a blue sky day, suitable for reminiscing. Outside the penthouse window, the late autumn sun glimmered on the calm Atlantic. Marie Lombardi relaxed in an easy chair and let her memory drift back to her days with Vince Lombardi, the legendary coach of the Green Bay Packers and the Washington Redskins.

More than 10 years have passed since Vince died of cancer at 57. Marie lives comfortably in a suburb of Palm Beach, Florida, occasionally visiting her two children, Vince and Susan (Mrs. Susan Bickham), and her seven grandchildren.

She is very much involved in community and charity enterprises. During the early days of the hostage crisis in Iran she handed out "Free the Hostages" badges. However, her prime interest is the Vince Lombardi Cancer Research Center at Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

She thinks often about the days when Vince Lombardi-coached teams dominated the NFL. She was very much a part of the picture, usually playing a background role. "One reason I agreed to go to Green Bay from New York," she says, "was that Vince promised that I could go with him to all the road games."

Sketches and portraits of her late husband now dominate Marie's tastefully furnished apartment. Surrounded by a Florida ocean view and a Lombardi ocean of memorabilia she watches football games on television and recalls those good, full years with Vince.

Who was the real Lombardi?

"Really, Vince was a very shy person. That's why he often appeared brusque with people he didn't know very well. He hated publicity. But in a small, intimate group he could be charming and witty. People thought he was fierce and ruthless. In truth, he was just a kitten.

"You must remember when he was on the scene in the 1960s, the whole world was in turmoil. It was a time of revolts on campuses, flag burnings, and anti-government protests. He waved the flag, said his prayers, and preached to other parents. And they loved to hear it.

"At home, Vince could be a tyrant one minute and a pussycat the next. He kept everything on edge. You never knew when the next explosion would occur."

What was it like, a typical week with the coach during the football season?

"If the team had lost, I couldn't talk to him. By Thursday he would say 'hello.' By Friday he would be almost human. On Saturday he was civil. By Sunday night he might even smile a little.

Steve Carver

Marie Lombardi

"I usually went with him to all the games on the road. That was one reason I agreed to go to Green Bay from my home in the East. As the kids grew up, sometimes they would come, too.

"Vince, Jr. used to help around training camp and in the locker room. Whatever went on there among the players he never told his father. 'I don't want you to tell me,' Vince warned him. I remember once we went to Chicago for the College All-Star game and we took Susan. Some friends got our permission for Susan to go out to dinner with them to a Chicago club. When she got back she told me, 'You know who I saw at the club?' It was one of our players and he wasn't supposed to be there. Just like her brother, she kept it to herself, and didn't tell her father.

"Vince had a habit of asking me on the day of a game, 'Do you think they're ready?', as though I knew anything about it. That week I answered, 'No.' It drove him crazy and he kept asking me, 'What do you know? What do you know?' I guess you'd say we were a very private family."

How about his relationship with the players?

"He never got on the players when they played a good game, even if they lost. But he would get on their backs when he thought they played a sloppy game—win or lose.

"I remember one time after a night game, it must have been in preseason, he climbed on the bus, got up and yelled, 'Okay, everybody, curfew is twelve o'clock.' They just got through playing a tough game and it was almost eleven o'clock already. I turned to Vince and said, 'I didn't think they played all that bad.' All the players sitting close by heard me. Vince stood up again and said, 'Okay, fellows. Make it one o'clock.' I remember saying to some players in the next seat, 'Want me to try for two o'clock?' "

Did Vince have a favorite player?

"Yes, he did but I am not going to tell you who it was. It wouldn't be fair to all the others. But that player knows because Vince told him.

"With Paul Hornung it was more of a father-son relationship. They really were quite close. Vince had a great deal of respect for Paul's mother.

"Bart Starr. He admired Bart's mind. Bart really is a fine person. They used to say if Vince thought he'd like a drink of water, Bart would catch the radar message and go and get the water.

"Fuzzy Thurston. Fuzzy was the clown, the fellow who made them laugh on trips. Fuzzy would be the fellow to grab a mike on a plane ride or a bus trip and lead the singing of "I've got the whole world in my hands.' Of course, he would change the words.

"Willie Davis. He was Vince's leader.

"Henry Jordan. He was the whipping boy. When Vince criticized Henry, nine others in the group knew he was talking about them, too.

"Jimmy Taylor. They had times they didn't hit it off too well. But in the end everything was fine. You remember, I made the presentation of Jimmy at the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton after Vince died.

"Forrest Gregg. Just a tremendously skilled football player. I remember one night when Paul Hornung and Ralph Guglielmi were sitting out on our patio talking about Gregg. They both said Forrest was the perfect football player who never made a mistake. I hope he does well as a coach.

"Bill Austin. Bill was an old friend and still is. Vince coached him with the Giants and had him on his coaching staff

at both Green Bay and Washington. Maybe they were close because they both played the same position, guard."

How tough was Vince?

"He was tough, all right, but he never had a doghouse. He never was mean to his players, despite what you may have read. He could get on them but after a game it was different. He never held a grudge. I remember when Bill Curry left the Packers, it was not under the happiest circumstances. Years later he wrote Vince and thanked him for 'making me grow up.' "

What were the circumstances when Vince left college football for the professional ranks and took a job with the Giants?

"He really didn't want to leave Earl (Red) Blaik and Army. The Giants wanted him, but at that time he was into the college thing. His ambition always had been to become head coach at Fordham [before they gave up the sport in the late 1940s]. He really considered himself a college coach. But the Giants made it so interesting, he just had to go. Looking back, it certainly was not a mistake.

"Jim Lee Howell was the head coach of the Giants and Vince worked for him. Tom Landry was another assistant. Vince always was very close to both the Mara brothers, Jack and Wellington. He and Well were classmates at Fordham and we became very good friends socially. We still are."

Why did Vince go to Green Bay?

"There had been offers from several clubs at the time. The Giants were successful and other teams were looking at their assistants. Actually, Vince was coach of the Philadelphia Eagles for about forty-eight hours—or until Well Mara convinced him to stay in New York.

"When the Green Bay job came along I think Vince was beginning to fear the whole thing might pass him by. Grandpa Mara [Tim Mara, Sr., founder of the Giants] was still alive then. Everybody knew he had an unwritten rule that only former Giants players ever coached the Giants. That certainly influenced Vince's thinking."

What was it like moving to Green Bay?

"People always said I didn't want to go. That really wasn't true. I always loved New York and I still do. But where I live is not important. I was used to the New York lifestyle. Out there in the Midwest everybody was so friendly that, at first, I thought they were being nosy.

"I'll never forget our first trip to Green Bay. We rode out from New Jersey in a little pink Chevrolet. Vince, the two kids, and I. Vince, Jr. was a junior in high school and Susan was in the eighth grade.

"We got out there about four o'clock in the afternoon and it was snowing. It snowed for eighteen days in a row and I loathed every snowflake.

"We got to like it, of course. At first, it was 'Vince Who?' but that soon changed. It was not difficult for a family to get along in Green Bay. We made lots of friends."

What would you say was the high spot of Vince's career?

"Oh, there were a lot of high spots. I guess I'd have to say his biggest thrill was when the Packers beat the Giants 37-0 in 1961. He beat his old home town team and it was Green Bay's first championship ever in a game played at home.

"Both Super Bowl games were big thrills, too, especially the first one. That was the first head-to-head battle between the old established National Football League and the American Football League. Some of the NFL owners just couldn't stand the thought of losing. There was a lot of pressure on Vince in that game from the other owners.

"I remember Well Mara wrote him a letter before the game in which he said, 'I don't know of any team I would rather have representing us than Green Bay.' "

Why did Vince retire as Packers coach after the 1967 season?

"He talked to me about it, but I never really thought he was serious. He made the decision and then I think he wanted me to say no and try to talk him out of it. It didn't take long for him to discover he had made a horrible mistake. As general manager of the Packers [1968], he missed coaching so much. But he wouldn't interfere with his successor, Phil Bengtson. I really don't know why he did retire. Maybe it was because he thought there were no more mountains to climb after winning three straight league championships and two Super Bowls."

How close did he come to returning to New York?

"He never really came close. When he left New York he knew all about Grandpa Mara's policy. Two weeks after we arrived in Green Bay, Grandpa Mara died. The boys [Jack and Well] always wanted Vince to become coach of the Giants. Jim Lee Howell wanted out. Vince wanted to go back in the worst way, but he couldn't. He was torn two ways and he'd ask me, 'Help me make this decision.' But he had started something and he wanted to finish it. Then, when he won the Western Conference [1960] and lost the title game in Philadelphia, there was no way he could change his mind."

Was politics ever a possibility for Vince?

"Not really. I have heard that he had been approached for various political offices. Some even said they thought of him as a potential vice-presidential candidate. If he ever was approached he never told me. Actually, I think he would have been the worst politician in the world. He couldn't and wouldn't compromise."

What made him come back to coach the Washington Redskins in 1969?

"I think one reason was that he always wanted to coach [quarterback] Sonny Jurgensen. But I'm being facetious. That wasn't the big reason, of course. Vince couldn't stand being away from coaching. And he always has been a great admirer of [Washington owner] Edward Bennett Williams.

"One big reason was that, as a part owner, he would be able to remain at league meetings when they'd be fighting for what was good for football. When he was at Green Bay, it had been very humiliating for him to have to get up and leave when they went into executive session. Now he could stay in league meetings and vote. He had asked to be a vice-president at Green Bay, but they said no. Now he was going to be able to fight for the things he wanted in league meetings.

"Vince really was a great speaker. I loved him the most when I heard him talk. In later years he used to talk to business groups, inspirational talks. I must have heard the same speech twenty-five times, but it knocked me out every time. He really could put across his point.

"Vince was sick when he came to New York in 1970 to make his last appearance at a league meeting. He probably shouldn't have gone but he insisted. The players were talking strike and he felt very strongly on the subject. That was the day he got up and asked the other owners not to turn over to 'a bunch of twenty-year-olds, what so many had sweated to build.' It was after that speech on the way home that he had a heart attack at the airport. For the first time in his life, he had to ask a stranger for help with our bags and luggage."

How do you think Vince would react to your being honored at Super Bowl XV?

"Somewhere up there is a coach who is looking down and saying 'What in hell is that woman doing out there on the field?' " ❗

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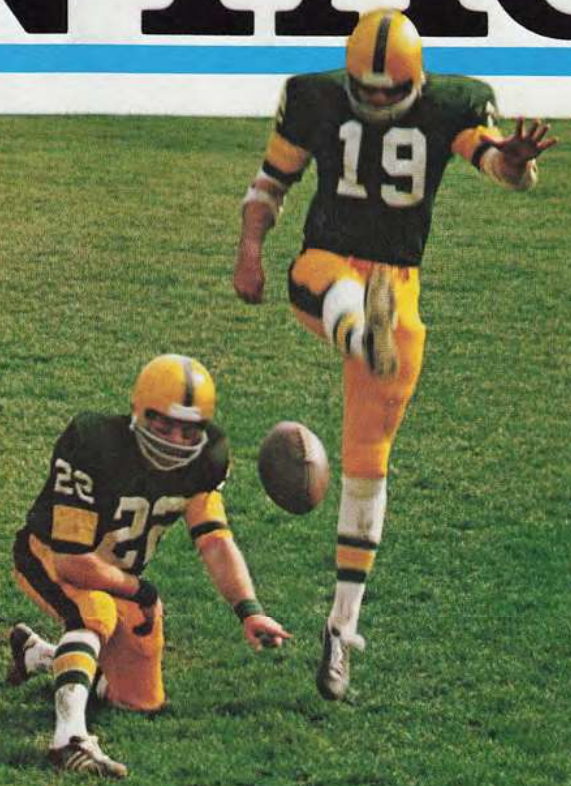

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No. 9 in a Series
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9

Subject:

The Race Track
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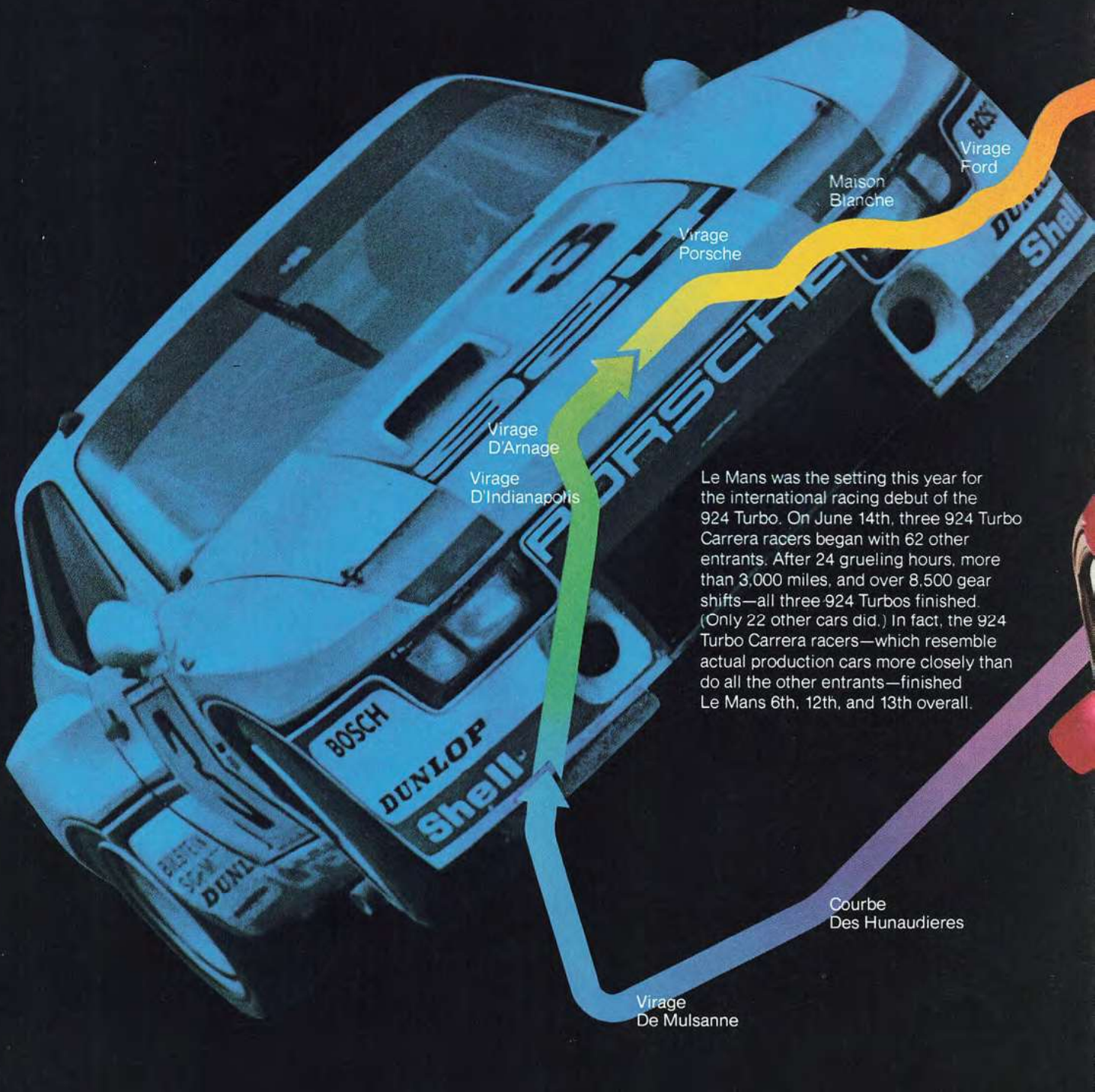

Le Mans was the setting this year for the international racing debut of the 924 Turbo. On June 14th, three 924 Turbo Carrera racers began with 62 other entrants. After 24 grueling hours, more than 3,000 miles, and over 8,500 gear shifts—all three 924 Turbos finished. (Only 22 other cars did.) In fact, the 924 Turbo Carrera racers—which resemble actual production cars more closely than do all the other entrants—finished Le Mans 6th, 12th, and 13th overall.

Porsche 924 Turbo

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NFL Trivia

NOTES, QUOTES, AND ANECDOTES by TED BROCK AND JIM CAMPBELL

Small Consolation?

By the time the Super Bowl got to Roman numeral V, one feature of the game seemed to follow a formula. In the first four AFL-NFL championship games, the most valuable player award had gone to the quarterback of the winning team. Then Baltimore's Jim O'Brien kicked a field goal in the final seconds to give Baltimore a 16-13 victory over Dallas, and the award winner, naturally, was ... Cowboys linebacker Chuck Howley (left).

The 12 year veteran distinguished himself, albeit in a losing cause, by intercepting two passes, contributing to or making many tackles, and producing one fumble.

Howley not only was the first non-quarterback and first defensive player to receive the award, he remains the only recipient to have been a member of the losing team.

Say That Again?

Veteran Pittsburgh Steelers center **Ray Mansfield**, prior to Super Bowl IX, commenting on the media attention he was receiving after a long career of anonymity: "I love it. I've been in the NFL for twelve seasons and nobody's asked me a question until now."

Green Bay defensive tackle **Henry Jordan**, following the Packers' victory over Oakland in game II: "The AFL is getting better. If they improve this much each year, they'll be on a par with us very soon."

Miami quarterback **Bob Griese** before game VI: "It's just another game, but it happens to be the only game in the world."

That Play Never Works

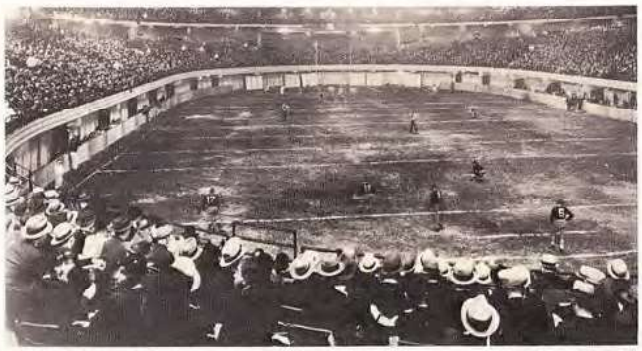
Merv Corning © Circle Gallery, Ltd.

During the week of practice prior to Super Bowl XIV, the Pittsburgh Steelers tried a play called "60 Prevent Slot Hook and Go." It was a new addition to the playbook, designed to take advantage of anticipated double coverage on wide receivers Lynn Swann and John Stallworth. The Steelers practiced it eight times. It failed eight times.

Early in the fourth quarter, trailing Los Angeles 19-17, quarterback Terry Bradshaw called "60 Prevent Slot Hook and Go." Stallworth faked a hook pattern back toward the line of scrimmage, designed to draw his defenders in, then turned and took off. Rams defensive backs Dave Elmendorf and Rod Perry took the fake. The Rams had a fifth defensive back in the game, Eddie Brown, and he misread the play. Perry was best situated to break it up, but Bradshaw's pass went just beyond Perry's reach.

Stallworth caught the ball over his "wrong shoulder," aesthetically speaking, but that was academic as the play went 73 yards for what turned out to be the deciding touchdown in the 31-19 victory.

Greatest Show On...

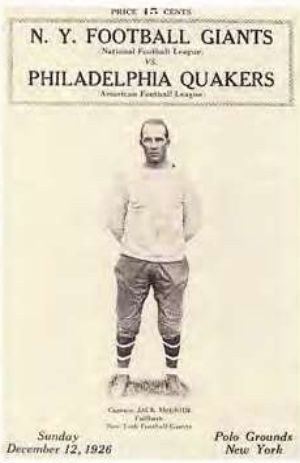


Super Bowl XV is the second of the series to be played indoors. The first indoor Super Bowl, game XII between Dallas and Denver, also was played in the Louisiana Superdome. Neither of those statements is particularly trivial.

Change "Super Bowl" to "NFL Championship," however, and the topic takes a 48-year warp. In 1932, a crowd of 11,198 filled Chicago Stadium, a hockey rink, to watch the Chicago Bears defeat the Portsmouth Spartans (the franchise that later became the Detroit Lions). The Bears' 9-0 shutout included a touchdown pass from Bronko Nagurski to Red Grange.

The playing surface was natural ... dirt. The circus had just left town, literally. Whether the cleanup crew left more than topsoil, though, remains a piece of trivia known only to the players themselves.

This May Come as a Surprise



Want to be remembered as a purveyor of the picayune, a merchant of the microscopic? All you have to do, any time you hear someone say, "I can remember the first time the AFL clashed with the NFL in the title tilt later dubbed Super Bowl I on January 15, 1967 at the Los Angeles Coliseum .... " is to respond with words to this effect:

Wrong, wrong, wrong. The first showdown meeting of the AFL and NFL took place in 1926, when the New York Football Giants defeated the Philadelphia Quakers (of the fledgling American Football League) 31-0 at the Polo Grounds.

Secret Sharer

The *1980 NFL Record Manual* lists seven players as having appeared in five Super Bowls—Marv Fleming, Larry Cole, Cliff Harris, D.D. Lewis, Preston Pearson, Charlie Waters, and Rayfield Wright.

What the *Record Manual* doesn't say is that Fleming's five Super Bowl appearances are paralleled by current Houston Oilers assistant general manager Pat Peppler. Peppler was director of player personnel at Green Bay when the Packers won Super Bowls I and II. He was director of the Miami Dolphins' pro scouting operation when they appeared at Super Bowls VI, VII, and VIII.

POINT...

EDITOR'S NOTE: *As the NFL has grown in recent decades, the reporters who cover the league have kept pace. The pre-1970 NFL-AFL debates, however, refuse to die. Here, Tex Maule takes on Larry Felser. Maule, formerly a pro football writer for* Sports Illustrated *and recently a columnist for* PRO!, *the official magazine of the NFL, argues the supremacy of the NFC (read "old NFL") against Larry Felser of the* Buffalo Evening News, *who has covered the Bills since they were charter members of the AFL in 1960.*

NFL Bloodlines Demand Respect

By Tex Maule

A rather large and vocal segment of the pro football constituency of America, including fans and sportswriters in places such as San Diego, Denver, Kansas City, Oakland, Buffalo, and other cities inhabited by American Football Conference teams would have you believe that, in the last decade or so, the AFC has, somehow, become a livelier, more puissant group of football teams than the doddering old National Football Conference.

They point with pride to the fact that the AFC teams have won (through 1979) 10 of 14 Super Bowls and a preponderance of the interleague games played during the time since the two leagues —American Football League and National Football League—merged.

They overlook the fact that five of those Super Bowl games were won by NFL teams that were moved into the AFC in 1970, when the AFL and the NFL merged. The AFL teams formed the AFC with the addition of Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Baltimore from the NFL. The three NFL teams were well-paid to make the move.

By this time, the AFL had reached the ripe old age of 10. The newer league had competed fiercely with the NFL teams for talent, and, if the old rule of thumb that it takes six years to build a team from scratch to full-fledged competitive strength had held true, all of the AFL teams should have been on a par with teams of their relative standing in the NFL, ranging from the best down to the worst. As a matter of fact, the AFL really had only three teams of NFL quality—Miami, Kansas City, and Oakland. In their first seasons in the AFC, two of the NFL transplants, Pittsburgh and Baltimore, bettered their previous season's records in the NFL. Baltimore, of course, won the AFC championship by winning the Eastern Division with an 11-2-1 record, then whipping Cincinnati 17-0 and Oakland 27-17 to take the AFC title in its first year as an AFC team.

Cleveland faded to a 7-7 record, finishing second in the AFC Central Division; Pittsburgh, which had been able to win only one game in the Century Division of the NFL in 1969, finished third in the AFC Central with a 5-9 record.

So Super Bowl V, between Baltimore and Dallas, actually matched two NFL teams, but when Baltimore won 16-13, it went down in the books as an AFC victory.

Which brings us once again to the point I have been aiming to make. Of the 10 Super Bowl victories credited to the American Football Conference, 5 were won by Pittsburgh and Baltimore. If you admit that these two teams were born, bred, and developed in the NFL (which they were), that their roots are strictly NFL and that they are members of the AFL only so that conference could muster enough teams to establish three divisions, then the true AFC versus NFC Super Bowl record should show nine victories for the old NFL versus five for the old AFL, through the first 14 Super Bowls.

If you transfer Pittsburgh, Baltimore, and Cleveland back into their legitimate places as NFL-bred teams and figure the interleague won-lost records through 1979, you will find that the NFL teams have won 329, lost 303, and tied 6 games. Only three of the original AFL teams show a winning record against NFL foes. They are Miami, Oakland, and Denver, all of whom played in the Super Bowl in the past decade.

There also is the matter of the Pro Bowl, which has been played between all-stars of the AFC and NFC for the past 10 years. The NFC leads in the series 6-4, but it's not unreasonable to think the margin might be wider had the NFC teams been able to use players from Pittsburgh, Baltimore, and Cleveland.

For Baltimore and Cleveland, incidentally, this is the second move from one league to another. The Browns were members of the old All-America Football Conference, which lasted from 1946 through the 1949 season, before "merging" with the NFL for the 1950 season.

By 1949, the AAFC had dwindled to seven teams and the merger consisted of the NFL allowing Cleveland, San Francisco, and Baltimore to join the league.

Maule: for the NFC...

Cleveland, of course, was immediately successful, and its quick NFL championship after the merger in 1950 may have made the teams that formed the AFL in 1960 underestimate the time and travail entailed in building a truly representative professional football team, one capable of playing on even terms with the well-established clubs of the NFL.

The Cleveland Browns were a special case. First, the AAFC had four years of building before three of its clubs joined the NFL; and the idea for the league came during World War II, was held in abeyance, and came to fruition when the war ended.

During those four years, Paul Brown, who was the guiding light of the Browns, was coaching service teams. He had been the coach at Ohio State, and he had a vast knowledge of football players in the service and in the Midwest. He put together a truly remarkable group of players for the 1946 Browns, led by Otto Graham, Mac Speedie, Dante Lavelli, Lou Groza, Marion Motley, Bill Willis, and others. Unfortunately, they proved to be *too* good. They won all four championships.

...COUNTERPOINT

Ross Lewis

...Felser: for the AFC.

Then, when the Browns joined the NFL, Paul Brown was given six choice players, all of them were all-league, from the rosters of the defunct AAFC teams. The Browns, already a fine team, came into the NFL an even better one.

No team in the AFL was given so huge a head start. The AFL had to build from scratch, as did the Dallas Cowboys, who came into existence the same year as the AFL.

The Cowboys had—and have—one of the best organizations in pro football, with superb scouting, coaching, and management. And it took the Cowboys six full years in the NFL before they could break even. In 1965, the club won seven games and lost seven, finishing second to Cleveland in the Eastern Conference. The next year, their seventh as a club, the Cowboys won the Eastern Conference championship, then lost the NFL championship game to the Green Bay Packers, 34-27, in a seesaw contest that could have gone either way.

Then Green Bay went on to smother Kansas City 35-10 in Super Bowl I. Kansas City, of course, had started dead even with the Cowboys, since the Chiefs began existence as the Dallas Texans before moving to Kansas City in 1963.

They were the same age, but the Cowboys had grown up in a tougher neighborhood.

AFC: An Orphanage Turned Powerhouse

By Larry Felser

Allow me to make a concession. When the realignment of the National Football League brought Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Baltimore into the newly created American Football Conference, the inclusion of the Colts in what had been the old American Football League, was a slight case of the fox getting the run of the chicken coop, although it was to be a brief run.

That is the extent of my magnanimity in this debate.

The Browns had begun their slide in 1970, symbolized by the ill-fated trade that sent Paul Warfield to Miami in exchange for the chance to draft Mike Phipps, who did not become the team's "quarterback of the future."

The Colts won that first AFC championship in 1970, but it really was their last hurrah. They were the shiny limo that still carried celebrities to the premieres, but, underneath, the fenders were rusting. A year later, the NFL-bred Colts were routed 21-0 by precocious Miami in the AFC championship game.

But the claim that the four Super Bowls won by the Steelers should, in some retroactive way, be credited to the NFL old guard, is staggering. That's akin to suggesting that Elizabeth Taylor is a linear descendant of Dolly Madison since both were married to Virginia politicians.

The fact is that the Steelers were "the franchise to be named later" in that realignment settlement with the AFL. They were the poorest team in the NFL at that moment, winners of only one game in 1969. Chuck Noll was at the one-small-step stage, exercising equal parts patience and future planning in his rookie year as head coach.

Quarterback Terry Bradshaw was the consolation prize for that 1-13 record, the number one draft choice in 1970. The new conference address prompted a change in philosophy for the Steelers. They had been famous for trading draft choices (and their future) for over-the-hill stars. When they came into their new conference, they took the opposite approach. Mel Blount, who was to become an all-pro cornerback, also came in the Bradshaw draft. In the next one, the Steelers acquired Jack Ham, Gerry Mullins, Dwight White, Larry Brown, Ernie Holmes, and Mike Wagner. In the next one came Franco Harris and the Steelers had the nucleus of their Super Bowl champions. The nucleus never had a casual acquaintance with the NFL old guard.

It may be true that there were a few stronger teams in the NFL at the time of realignment, but the very best teams, with the exception of the Dallas Cowboys, were in the AFC. The NFC has been getting by on that qualifier for a long time: *except Dallas*. Even at the beginning of the AFC, the Colts lost their first two meetings with the Kansas City Chiefs. Even in their Super Bowl year they were tied by one of the weakest of AFL teams, the Buffalo Bills.

Cleveland lost its first two games against Oakland. In that first AFC season, the Browns were knocked out of the playoffs because of three consecutive midseason losses to old AFL teams—San Diego, Oakland, and Cincinnati.

But the debate is not just a matter of won-lost records. It also is a matter of style. When the realignment came about, the NFL teams were convinced that the old ways were the best ways.

In the AFL, improvisation and innovation were the order. In the beginning, it had to be that way, because the new league didn't have the talent to make the traditional ways work. But after a while, it became a happy marriage of new talent and new ideas.

The 3-4 defense, which now has become the dominant defense in the NFL, was first used as a primary defense by Buffalo in its AFL championship years in the early 1960s.

In Oakland, the Raiders had a variation of the defense, with the late Dan Birdwell used as a rover from defensive end to linebacker. The Raiders also refined bump-and-run pass defense to the point where it had to be legislated out of existence.

The old guard's standard reply to innovation and improvisation is "we used that years ago. There is nothing new in football." There *is*, however, if it is incorporated into a team's basic arsenal, and it works.

The ultimate answer to that argument came in Super Bowl IV between the Minnesota Vikings and Kansas City. The Vikings were accustomed to playing four-man fronts. The Chiefs played the stack defense, which meant Buck Buchanan, their 6 foot 7 inch, 280 pound defensive tackle, was head up on the center for most of the game.

The Vikings' center, Mick Tingelhoff, thought he had his head caught in a snowblower. It was one of the reasons Kansas City scored a one-sided upset.

Old guard rigidity still handicapped the NFC as late a Super Bowl VIII. When fullback Larry Csonka of winning Miami accepted the most valuable player award, he wryly thanked Minnesota coach Bud Grant "for staying in the four-three defense to make this award possible."

Now to a more explosive premise: Not only do I concede all but one of the Super Bowls won by the NFL expatriate NFL teams—Baltimore's victory over Dallas in Game V—but I also believe that the AFL/AFC would have added to its total of Super Bowl victories by at least two if the championship between the leagues had been contested as early as 1963, when the AFL was just four seasons old.

The AFL champion in 1963 was San Diego, a rousing offensive team that included at least two future Pro Football Hall of Famers, wide receiver Lance Alworth and tackle Ron Mix, plus a pair of superb running backs in Keith Lincoln and Paul Lowe and a skilled quarterback in Tobin Rote. The Chargers would have matched up against the Chicago Bears in a Super Bowl that season. The Bears were strictly a defensive team. It was a good defense, but it didn't have Dick Butkus yet. The offense was far from top-quality, and the quarterback was journeyman Bill Wade. Gale Sayers hadn't arrived yet, either.

In 1964, the matchup would have been the Cleveland Browns against the Buffalo Bills. Cleveland had a potent offense, with running back Jim Brown, wide receiver Paul Warfield, and quarterback Frank Ryan in one of his best years. The defense was solid. But Buffalo was not the stereotypical AFL team; the Bills won with defense and ball control.

The defensive line had Ron McDole, Jim Dunaway, Tom Day, and one of the best players in the league, tackle Tom Sestak. The linebackers had played 58 consecutive games together. Free safety George Saimes and cornerback Butch Byrd were all-league stars. The defense allowed four rushing touchdowns.

Offensively, running back Cookie Gilchrist had had one of his best years. Jack Kemp was the quarterback, and Daryle Lamonica was in reserve. The wide receivers, Elbert Dubenion and Glenn Bass, were playing their last healthy seasons together. The offensive line, was strong, too.

Maybe the NFC is lucky the Super Bowls weren't started earlier.

Maule Counterpoint

First, let me say that no one but a dyed-in-the-wool American Football League fanatic could find any analogy between the AFL, the NFL, Elizabeth Taylor, and Dolly Madison. That Felser should suggest comparison is apropos because the linear descent of the merger teams is especially interesting.

When Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Baltimore joined the AFC, they changed only the initials of the league in which they played. A truly apropos analogy might be if I were to adopt a Chinese child and change his name from Yang to Maule. The letters of identity—Y-A-N-G—would be different from M-A-U-L-E, but the child would grow up looking Chinese. His bloodlines would not be affected.

Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Baltimore were deeply rooted NFL teams. The change to the AFC did nothing to make the Rooneys suddenly heirs to the AFC tradition, or Browns owner Art Modell a blood brother to Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt. Carroll Rosenbloom, the Colts' owner at the time of the merger, was not an AFC child; he was brought into the NFL by then Commissioner Bert Bell.

The coaches, scouts, and most of the players who were members of the three teams were NFL products. The quarterback Felser is so proud of—Tobin Rote—had been an undistinguished NFL quarterback, as were Len Dawson and George Blanda. And he compares Cookie Gilchrist with Jim Brown!

Finally, he suggests that had the two leagues met in 1963 and 1964 in the Super Bowl, the AFC would have won. What he is saying is that the young league grew in strength and experience for three or four years, then suddenly declined. San Diego and Buffalo still were in the league in the years subsequent to 1964, but they were beaten by Kansas City and Oakland, who, in turn, were demolished by the Green Bay Packers. I suggest that the people Felser admired on San Diego and Buffalo looked good because of the weak opposition, as Green Bay demonstrated in Super Bowls I and II.

At any rate, I doubt that Elizabeth and Dolly have anything at all to do with the question.

Felser Counterpoint

Only someone as rigidly old-guard NFL as Maule would make the kind of summation he does.

I think Tex underestimates the flexibility of owners when he suggests that, somehow, Art Modell, the Rooneys, and, briefly, Carroll Rosenbloom resisted becoming blood brothers with their new AFC partners. Owners of football teams are far more adaptable than players, coaches, and (particularly) writers.

I sat in the booth next to Modell when the Jets were astonishing Baltimore in Super Bowl III. No one looked more stricken. But, when he became an AFC lodge member, no one smiled broader at all of that conference's victories. To argue that the Rooneys were not ready for a change is to ignore the Steelers' won-lost record in the years before the merger.

I think Maule will agree that Rosenbloom was a pragmatist. So it was fairly easy for him to hop back and forth across conference lines.

The astonishing part of Tex's rebuttal is the off-handed way he dismisses good players.

Tobin Rote was undistinguished? He led the NFL in yards gained passing one year and in touchdown passes in another. He twice was number one in pass completions. Was he any less distinguished than Joe Kapp? Couldn't he have had one super season, as Kapp had in 1969 with Minnesota?

No one compared Cookie Gilchrist to Jimmy Brown, but for a full reading on Gilchrist, ask McDole, Nick Buoniconti, and Willie Brown, players whose careers covered both the pre- and post-merger eras.

The old AFL putdowns made for good propaganda in the 1960s, but in the 1980s they are something less than bad history.

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IV for XIV

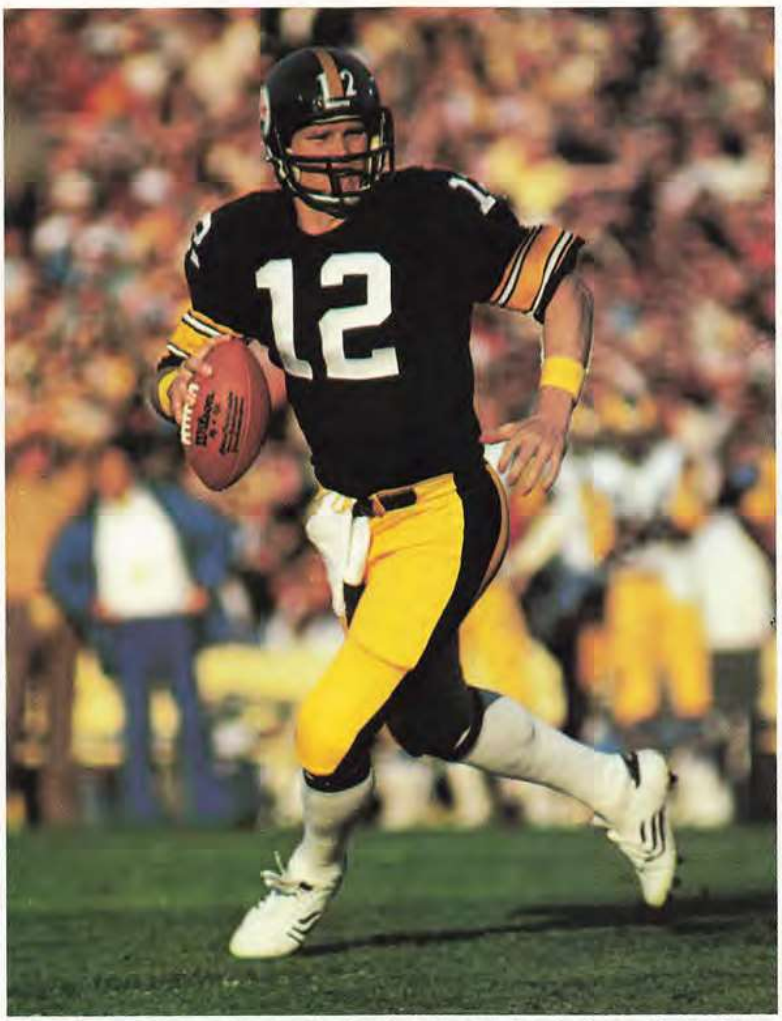
For three quarters, Los Angeles had championship visions; then Pittsburgh turned the lights out in Pasadena.

By Steve Cassady

The sun had dropped behind the foothills that form the Arroyo Seco, and a deep black night had settled over the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.

Inside the stadium, under bright banks of lights, 103,985 spectators were screaming at the drama of an imminent upset. The scoreboard blazed the story in illuminated numbers: With less than a quarter to play in Super Bowl XIV, the Los Angeles Rams were ahead of the Pittsburgh Steelers 19-17.

No pregame prophet —at least a logical one— had cast such a turn. In fact, if a Super Bowl game ever figured to be a dud, it was this one, played on a chill Sunday afternoon, January 20, 1980.



Terry Bradshaw strong-arms the Steelers to their fourth Super Bowl victory.

On one side were the indomitable Steelers, three-time world champions, forged from countless challenges and alloyed with AFC Pro Bowl talent such as quarterback Terry Bradshaw, receiver Lynn Swann, linebacker Jack Lambert, and tackle Joe Greene. They had gone 12-4 in the regular season, then crushed Miami and Houston in the playoffs. The 1979 Steelers probably were the most formidable Super Bowl team in history.

Los Angeles, by contrast, was among the weakest. In April, 1979, the team's influential owner, Carroll Rosenbloom, had drowned while swimming off the Florida coast. In ensuing months, front office turmoil was stilled only when Rosenbloom's widow Georgia wrested control from his embittered son Steve.

When management matters were calmed, the season opened to ill fortune on the field. Thirteen starters were injured for a game or more during the year. After nine weeks, the Rams' record was a desultory 4-5, and rumors of impending dismissal hovered ominously over the shoulders of head coach Ray Malavasi.

The Rams turned it around late, winning five of their final seven regular season games and both their playoff matches —a 21-19 upset of Dallas and a 9-0 struggle against Tampa Bay.

Still, they failed to impress. As Super Bowl XIV approached, the oddsmakers established Pittsburgh an overwhelming favorite, pointing at two inarguable facts: the Rams' regular season record (9-7) had been the poorest of all the 10 playoff teams, and they still were hobbled by injuries.

Defensive end Jack Youngblood was performing with a hairline fracture of his right leg. Linebacker Jim Youngblood was slowed painfully by an injured shoulder. So were safety Dave Elmendorf (sore neck) and cornerback Rod Perry (concussion and a wrenched knee).

Worse, starting quarterback Pat Haden had been lost for the season with a broken finger.

That meant third year pro Vince Ferragamo would quarterback the Rams in the NFL's biggest game. At 25, he was the second youngest man ever to direct a Super Bowl team (Joe Namath had been a few months younger at the time of Super Bowl III). But in terms of experience, Ferragamo was the greenest by far.

His only NFL starts had been the seven games since Haden's injury. In two of those, the offense had stalled, and Malavasi had replaced him with journeyman Bob Lee. In the NFC championship game, the 9-0 victory over Tampa Bay, Ferragamo couldn't deliver a touchdown.

More seriously, he had failed to distinguish himself as a leader. "When you talk to Vince," one of his teammates reportedly had said, "you're not always sure he is all there."

Continued on page 48

1

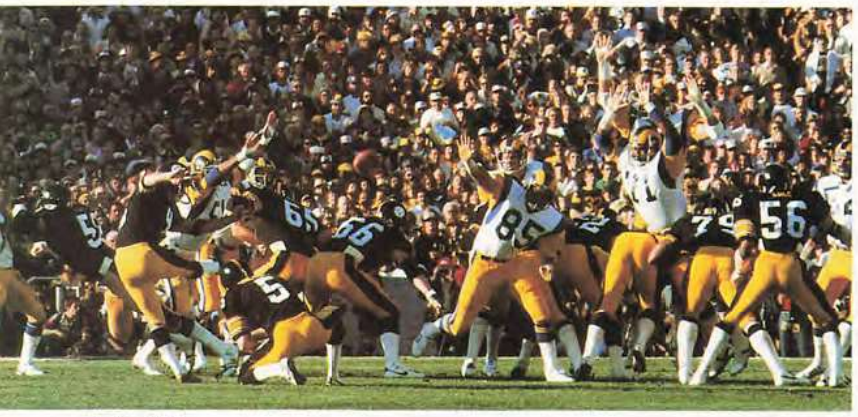
	1	2	3	4	T
Los Angeles	7				7
Pittsburgh	3				3

I deserve to be where I'm at. The Rams do, too, and we're ready to play this game. I could care less if I'm the youngest Super Bowl quarterback or the oldest.

Vince Ferragamo

The Rams entered Super Bowl XIV conspicuous underdogs. Playing in their first ever Super Bowl, led by an untested quarterback, they were supposed to fall groveling before the three-time world champion Steelers. But all talk of a mismatch was hushed on the second play of Los Angeles's second possession, after Pittsburgh had taken a 3-0 lead. On second and four from his own 47, Wendell Tyler rolled around left end for 39 yards. Nobody had run that far against Pittsburgh all year, and it signaled that a brawl was about to erupt. The Rams bore on. They ran between the tackles six times in the next six downs. On the sixth, Los Angeles's intimidating line wedged under Pittsburgh's goal line defense, and 240 pound Cullen Bryant muscled in from the 1. The quarter ended with the score 7-3, the underdogs on top.

9:00 *Against the Rams' nickel defense, Franco Harris (32) slips unguarded into the middle, takes Terry Bradshaw's pass, and outraces nickel back Eddie Brown (25) and linebacker Jim Youngblood (53) for 32 yards.*



7:41 *A resistant Rams' defense bottles up Pittsburgh at the Rams' 24, so Matt Bahr kicks a 41-yard field goal over the outstretched arms of Rams' linemen Jack Youngblood (85) and Reggie Doss (71).*

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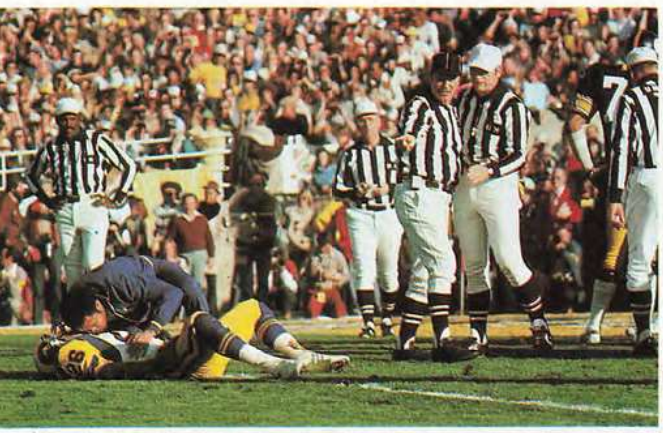
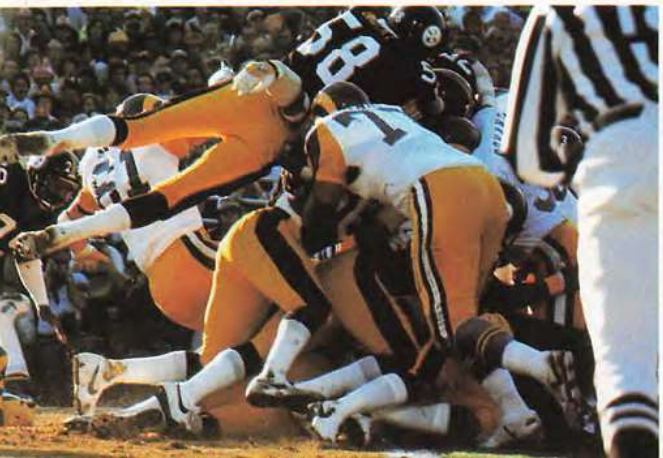
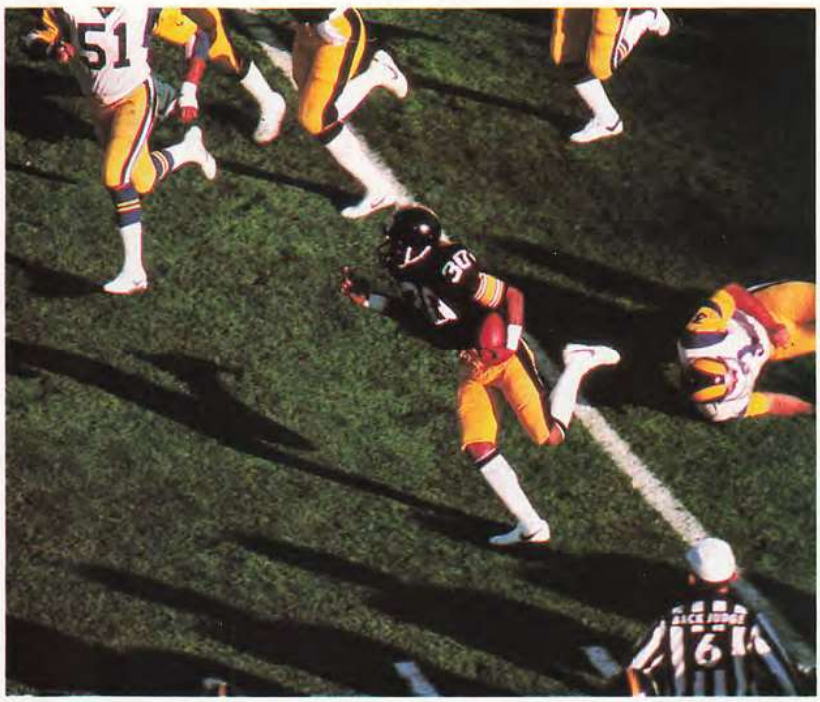
6:50 *(Sequence left) Pittsburgh's 3-0 lead begins to evaporate as Wendell Tyler (26) rolls around right end for 39 yards behind Rich Saul (61) and Cullen Bryant (32).*



3:30 *The hitting is intense in Super Bowl XIV. Here, Wendell Tyler lies injured after colliding with Cole while trying to penetrate Pittsburgh's goal line defense.*



3:50 *(Above) The Rams butt up the middle repeatedly after Tyler's long gain. On second and goal from the 2, Tyler slams against left tackle, but is stopped by a gang of Steelers led by linebacker Robin Cole (56).*



2:38 *All afternoon, the Steelers are handed field position by Larry Anderson's kick returns. Here, Anderson (30) steps over Frank Corral (3) and sprints past Joe Harris (51) for 45 yards.*

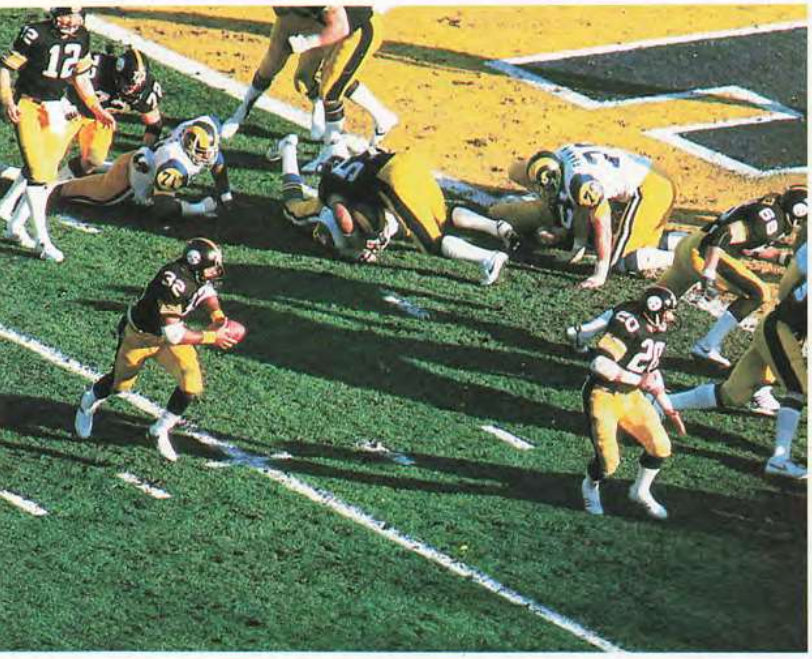
2:44 *(Left) On two successive thrusts from the 2, the Rams gain only a yard. Finally, on third down, Bryant (32) wedges through the pileup under an airborne Jack Lambert (58) for a go-ahead touchdown.*

2

	1	2	3	4	T
Los Angeles	7	6			13
Pittsburgh	3	7			10

I thought we were going to win from the beginning, and I thought so right down to the end. They didn't outplay us. We ran on them, we threw on them.
Ray Malavasi

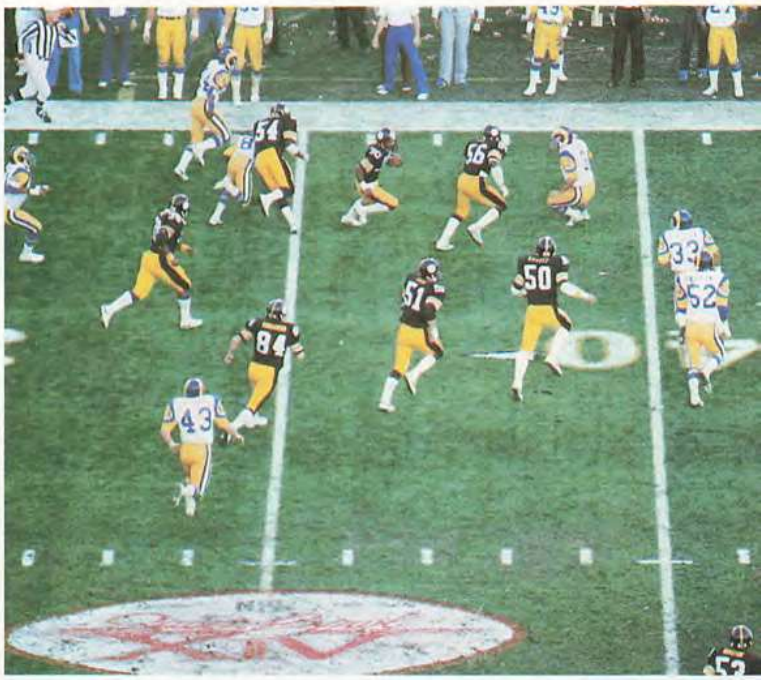
Pittsburgh retook the lead at 10-7 on a one-yard Franco Harris sweep early in the quarter, and all of America's football fans wondered if the game had turned, if Pittsburgh was beginning to flow while Los Angeles ebbed. The answer came immediately as Vince Ferragamo led the Rams on a retaliatory march of five and a half minutes that ended in a tying field goal by Frank Corral. Contrary to all predictions, the young quarterback seemed unfazed by the ear-popping pressure. He was picking up blitzes, calling plays, and withstanding the rush with the composure of a veteran. Late in the quarter, Dave Elmendorf intercepted a pass by Terry Bradshaw and Ferragamo initiated another drive. It stalled at the two-minute warning, on fourth and eight from the Steelers' 37. During the timeout, Rams head coach Ray Malavasi vetoed the idea of kicking. Ferragamo trotted back in and dropped for the inevitable pass. He stood in the pocket scanning the secondary as the Steelers' front four crashed violently across the line. He waited until the rush had crested, then he zipped the ball 10 yards upfield to Billy Waddy for a first down. Five plays later, Corral kicked another field goal. The half ended with Los Angeles ahead 13-10.



12:52 *The Steelers regain the lead 10-7 when Franco Harris (32) takes a Terry Bradshaw (12) pitchout and sweeps right end for a one-yard touchdown behind the solid blocking of Rocky Bleier (20).*

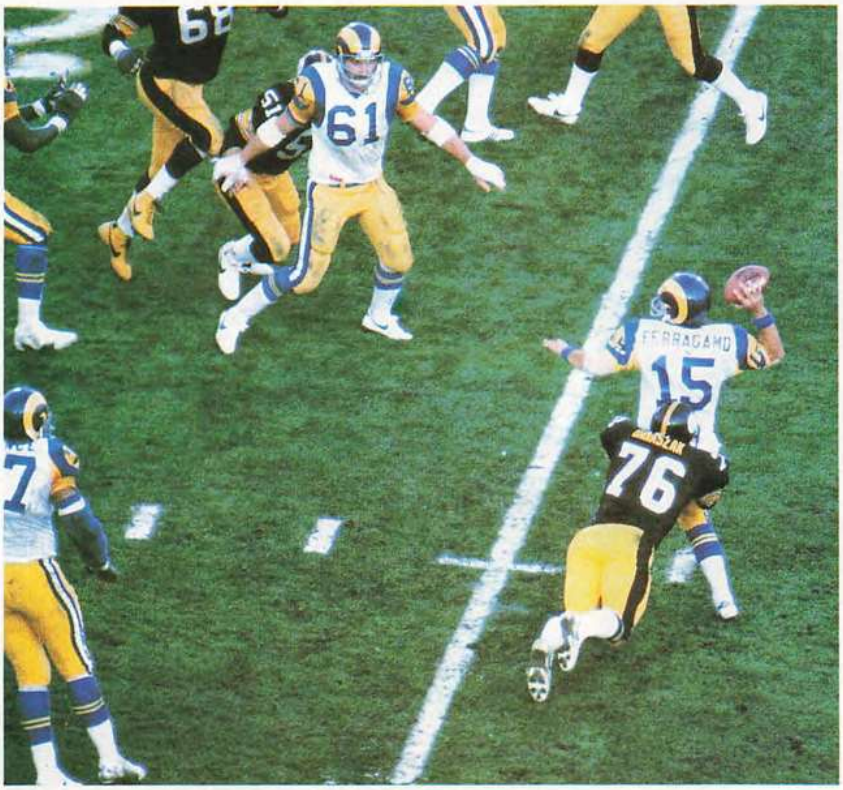
3:14 *(Right) An exchange of punts gives Pittsburgh the ball, first and 10 on its own 37. Bradshaw is intercepted immediately by Dave Elmendorf (42), who returns the errant pass 10 yards to the Steelers' 42.*

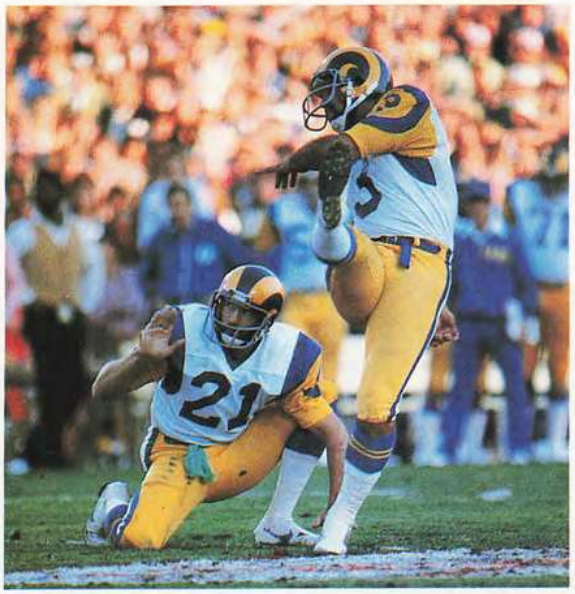
7:21 *The Rams embark on a long march from their own 19. At the Steelers' 14, on third down, Vince Ferragamo finds Ron Smith alone in the end zone, but Smith (84) cannot hold the low spiral.*



7:11 *After Frank Corral's 31-yard field goal ties the score, Larry Anderson (30) shoots through an open lane in the left side of the Rams' coverage and scampers for a 38-yard return.*

3:05 *With Los Angeles in good field position at the Steelers' 39, Pittsburgh sends in an all-out blitz. Safety J. T. Thomas (24) occupies Kent Hill (72), while Robin Cole (56) sneaks past Rich Saul (61) to sack Ferragamo for a 10-yard loss.*





0:25 *Time ticks away in the half as Corral (3) puts the Rams ahead 13-10 with a 45-yard field goal out of the hold of Nolan Cromwell (21).*

0:49 *(Left) On third down from the Steelers' 13, Doug France (77) and Saul (61) stand by as John Banaszak (76) drops Ferragamo for a 14-yard loss.*

3

	1	2	3	4	T
Los Angeles	7	6	6		19
Pittsburgh	3	7	7		17

At the start of the second half, I got myself juiced up. That wasn't tough at all—being behind 13-10 with thirty minutes to play got me juiced up real good.

Terry Bradshaw

So far, Los Angeles's talented secondary had contained Pittsburgh through the air. But not even a group with the combined abilities of Rod Perry, Pat Thomas, Dave Elmendorf, and Nolan Cromwell could check Terry Bradshaw and Lynn Swann indefinitely. From the Rams' 47 with three minutes elapsed, Swann bounded deep through the middle of the Los Angeles secondary. At the 5, he outleaped Thomas and Cromwell, grabbed Bradshaw's rainbow, bounced off Thomas, and catapulted in the end zone. It was a stunning reversal of momentum, putting Pittsburgh back on top 17-13. "A great athlete making a great catch when it was needed most," muttered Cromwell. Still, the Rams refused to fold. In the ensuing drive, Vince Ferragamo hit Billy Waddy for 50 yards on third and seven from his own 26. On the next play, he handed to Lawrence McCutcheon for an apparent sweep to the right. Instead, McCutcheon slowed as he neared the corner, and the Steelers' defensive backs, rushing up to force, knew they had bitten on a fake. McCutcheon wobbled a 24-yard touchdown pass to Ron Smith at the goal line near the right flag. The Rams' 19-17 advantage remained for the last 10 minutes of the period, as first nickel back Eddie Brown, then right corner Perry, intercepted the now anxious Bradshaw.

15:00 *(Below) Larry Anderson (30) follows the fierce special teams blocking of Robin Cole (56), Sydney Thornton (38), and Zack Valentine (54) for 37 yards, as the Steelers rip yet another big hole in the Rams' kick coverage.*

12:16 *(Sequence right) Running a deep post from the Rams' 47, Lynn Swann (88) leaps past the double coverage of Pat Thomas (27) and Nolan Cromwell (21), catches Terry Bradshaw's bomb, and bounces off Thomas into the end zone.*

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10:59 *At the Steelers' 26, Billy Waddy (80) outjumps Ron Johnson (29) for Ferragamo's 50-yard pass as J.T. Thomas (24) closes in fast.*

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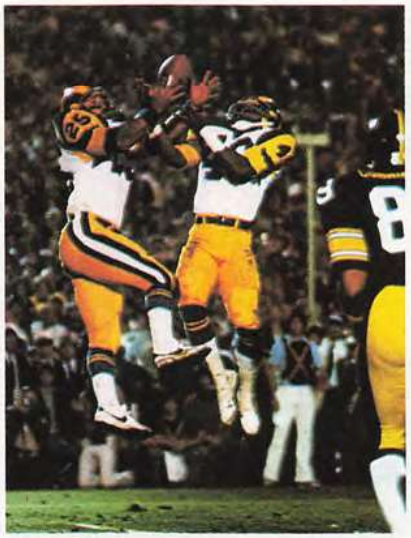
9:06 *(Below) Ahead 19-17, the Rams almost break it open. They launch a savage rush at Bradshaw (12), who throws hurriedly toward John Stallworth (82); the ball is nearly intercepted, but dropped, by Cromwell (21).*

10:15 *(Sequence left) Lawrence McCutcheon (30) follows Kent Hill (72) on an apparent sweep. Suddenly, McCutcheon slows and lofts a 24-yard pass to Ron Smith (84), who struggles into the end zone past J. T. Thomas.*

8:57 *Things continue to look bleak for Pittsburgh. Upended by Pat Thomas (27), then leveled by Jim Youngblood (53) after catching a short pass, Swann (88) is out of the game with a rib injury.*



8:30 *Eddie Brown (25) outwrestles teammate Rod Perry (49) for a critical interception, snuffing Steelers drive.*

1:10 *Pittsburgh threatens at the Rams' 16 when Perry (49) intercepts at the 1 and is tackled at the 5.*

4

	1	2	3	4	T
Los Angeles	7	6	6	0	19
Pittsburgh	3	7	7	14	31

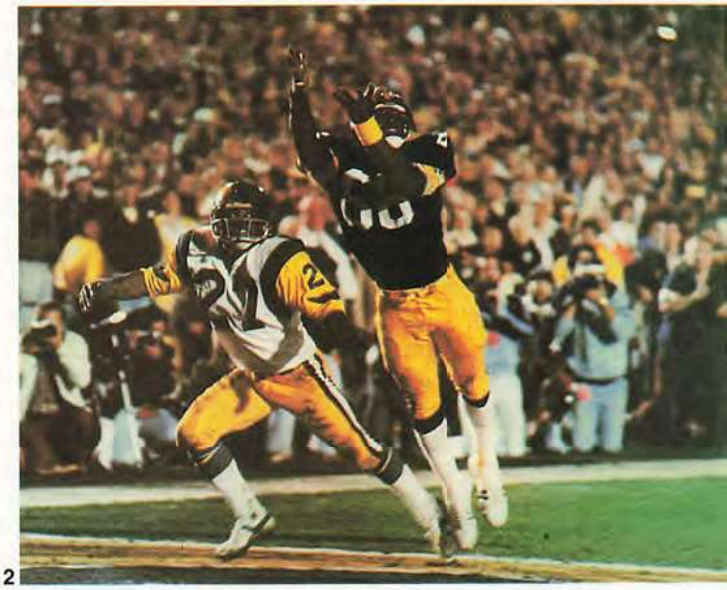
Nothing the Rams did out there surprised me a bit. Nothing. I told Terry before the game he would have to come up with the big play for us to win.

Chuck Noll

12:04 *(Left) Terry Bradshaw sends John Stallworth (82) up the middle on a special play called a "60 Prevent Slot Hook and Go." Stallworth outsteps a diving Rod Perry (49) for a 73-yard touchdown and a 24-19 Steelers advantage.*

Pittsburgh had ascended the mountain three times previously in the 1970s. Among other reasons, the Steelers had won with an ability to launch killer strikes while heavily under siege. More than anything, it was this talent that pushed them to the top in Super Bowl XIV. They were behind as the fourth quarter began. They had failed to stop Vince Ferragamo's passing as well as Wendell Tyler and Cullen Bryant's running; on the other side, Terry Bradshaw had been intercepted three times, and Franco Harris had gained only 36 yards from scrimmage. Now, with 15 minutes left, Pittsburgh reached into some musty corner of its armory and pulled out three live grenades. With 12:04 remaining, Bradshaw hit John Stallworth for a 73-yard score. With 8:29 to play, Ferragamo mounted the kind of drive he had negotiated four times. Only this one was blown away at the Steelers' 10, when Jack Lambert hung back on a pass intended for Ron Smith, then swooped in for the interception. With 4:10 to go, Bradshaw sealed the Steelers' claim on the Vince Lombardi trophy. He found Stallworth for 45 yards. It was followed by a Rams' interference play in the end zone, setting up the last touchdown. Super Bowl XIV had been the toughest climb of all, but the Steelers had reached the pinnacle for a record fourth time.

1



2

2:30 *Pittsburgh moves toward the game-clinching touchdown when Pat Thomas (27) is detected impeding Jim Smith (86) on Bradshaw's 22-yard pass into the end zone.*

5:30 *(Below left) Jack Lambert (58) steps in front of Ron Smith (84) at the Pittsburgh 14. He intercepts Vince Ferragamo just when it looks as if Los Angeles is driving for the go-ahead touchdown.*

4:10 *Tackle Jon Kolb (55) fights off rusher Larry Brooks (90) as Bradshaw cranks up for another "60 Prevent Slot Hook and Go," this one a back-breaking 45-yard completion to Stallworth at the Rams' 27.*

1:52 *Bradshaw (12) exults and Nolan Cromwell (21) sags as Franco Harris (32) seals Super Bowl XIV at 31-19 with a one-yard scoring burst over the right tackle.*

Walter Iooss © Sports Illustrated

IV for XIV Continued from page 39

Nonetheless, the Rams clattered down the tunnel for Super Bowl XIV as eagerly as street brawlers looking to crack some heads. "We're not afraid of anything or anybody," Malavasi had said in a pregame press conference. He drew scoffs for that remark and one other: He said his team was primed to win.

Signs of an upset came early. Pittsburgh stopped the Rams cold after the opening kickoff, then marched methodically into Los Angeles territory. Matt Bahr kicked a 41-yard field goal, and the skeptics were smirking.

Two plays later, they bolted upright in their seats. On second and four from his own 47, Ferragamo handed to Wendell Tyler for a sweep to the left. Tyler shook off a brace of tacklers as he turned the corner and pressed down the throttle. He sped upfield, strewing Steelers in his wake until free safety Donnie Shell leveled him out of bounds 39 yards upfield.

It was the longest ground gain against the Steelers all year. Los Angeles had caught them flat-footed. "That run set the tone against us," said Joe Greene afterward. "It threw us into the tank."

Pittsburgh buckled periodically after that, and the Rams crept ahead on points —7-3 at the end of the first quarter, 13-10 at halftime, 19-17 at the end of three quarters. Injuries notwithstanding, Los Angeles's tenacious defense had intercepted Bradshaw three times and was containing the Steelers on the ground. Inexperience notwithstanding, Ferragamo was driving his team with the elan expected of Bradshaw himself.

More, the Rams seemed energized by the pressure. While retaking the lead three times in the first three quarters, they threw back stunts, cut down receivers, picked up blitzes, and filled against traps with a fierceness that scorned the idea of relenting.

It showed most dramatically at the end of the third quarter, after Rod Perry had intercepted Bradshaw on the Rams' 6. Wendell Tyler swept left end for 13 yards, and time ticked down. As the gun sounded, the Steelers' defense sagged a bit before turning and trudging slowly to the other end of the field. The Rams were so pumped they sprinted past the Steelers like leaders lapping stragglers on the last straightaway of a distance run.

Against any other team, Los Angeles would have ridden its momentum to victory. But Pittsburgh always had been marked by its ability to light the sky when the horizon seemed darkest. And, with a little more than 12 minutes to play, on third and eight from their own 27, the Steelers struck with the first of a sudden succession of lightning bolts.

From the right flank, John Stallworth sprinted straight upfield, then curled over the middle. Two Rams defenders, Perry and Elmendorf, read it as a hook and converged. A third, Eddie Brown, who was responsible for supporting the middle against the bomb, blew the coverage.

He was badly out of position when Stallworth cut upfield past Perry and Elmendorf. Bradshaw saw what was happening and let loose. Stallworth was racing straight up the middle, chased now by the rapidly recovering Perry. At the 34, he reached up and caught the ball over his shoulder as Perry went airborne in a futile attempt to bat it down. Stallworth danced away for a 73-yard scoring play.

Behind 24-19, the Rams still declined to panic. An exchange of punts gave them possession on their own 16 with 8:29 to play. From there, Ferragamo directed his offense as he had all day, mixing runs with passes, picking up blitzes, converting third downs.

He had moved Los Angeles to the Pittsburgh 32, when the Steelers struck again. Ferragamo had dropped to pass on first down. For a flash, he saw Ron Smith open near the 10. He cocked and threw without noting the location of middle linebacker Jack Lambert, who had anticipated the pass, dropped deep, and now was coiled behind Smith. As Ferragamo released, Lambert sprang in front and intercepted on the 14.

With 5:29 left, Bradshaw might have buttoned up right there. But he was anxious about the precarious lead. On third and seven from his own 33, he called the same play Stallworth had scored on seven minutes earlier.

Once more, Stallworth ran out, faked his hook, and sped into the night. Once more, a mixup in the Rams' secondary left him in a footrace a step ahead of Rod Perry. Once more, Bradshaw launched a perfect pass, and Stallworth hauled it in 45 yards upfield. Minutes later, Pittsburgh sealed the victory with another touchdown, and Super Bowl XIV was history at 31-19.

Except for those three fourth quarter strikes, it had been a brutally fought standoff. "We played the hell out of them," said Rams defensive end Fred Dryer while blotting blood from his chin in the losers' locker room. "We're hurting, but I guarantee those other suckers are sore too."

In the winners' quarters, the weary Steelers nodded their assent. ❗

Los Angeles	7	6	6	0—19
Pittsburgh	3	7	7	14—31

Pitt—FG Bahr 41
LA—Bryant 1 run (Corral kick)
Pitt—Harris 1 run (Bahr kick)
LA—FG Corral 31
LA—FG Corral 45
Pitt—Swann 47 pass from Bradshaw (Bahr kick)
LA—R. Smith 24 pass from McCutcheon (kick failed)
Pitt—Stallworth 73 pass from Bradshaw (Bahr kick)
Pitt—Harris 1 run (Bahr kick)
Attendance—103,985

TEAM STATISTICS	Los Angeles	Pittsburgh
First downs	16	19
Rushing	6	8
Passing	9	10
Penalty	1	1
Third down efficiency	6-16-37.5	9-14-64.3
Total net yardage	301	393
No. plays	59	58
Avg. gain per play	5.1	6.8
Net rushing yardage	107	84
No. rushes	29	37
Avg. gain per play	3.7	2.3
Net yards passing	194	309
Times sacked and yards lost	4-42	0-0
Gross yardage	236	309
Passes att.-comp.-had int.	26-16-1	21-14-3
Avg. gain per pass	6.5	14.7
Punts and average	5-44.0	2-42.5
Had blocked	0	0
Fumbles—No. and lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties—No. and yards	2-26	6-65
Return yardage	104	209
Punt returns—No. and yards	1-4	4-31
Kickoff returns—No. and yards	6-79	5-162
Interceptions—No. and yards	3-21	1-16

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING

Los Angeles	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Tyler	17	60	3.5	39	0
Bryant	6	30	5.0	14	1
McCutcheon	5	10	2.0	6	0
Ferragamo	1	7	7.0	7	0
Pittsburgh					
Harris	20	46	2.3	12	2
Bleier	10	25	2.5	9	0
Bradshaw	3	9	3.0	6	0
Thornton	4	4	1.0	5	0

PASSING

Los Angeles	Att.	Comp.	Pct.	Yards	Int.	TD
Ferragamo	25	15	60.0	212	1	0
McCutcheon	1	1	100.0	24	0	1
Pittsburgh						
Bradshaw	21	14	66.7	309	3	2

PASS RECEIVING

Los Angeles	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Waddy	3	75	25.0	50	0
Bryant	3	21	7.0	12	0
Tyler	3	20	6.7	11	0
Dennard	2	32	16.0	24	0
Nelson	2	20	10.0	14	0
D. Hill	1	28	28.0	28	0
R. Smith	1	24	24.0	24	1
McCutcheon	1	16	16.0	16	0
Pittsburgh					
Swann	5	79	15.8	47	1
Stallworth	3	121	40.3	73	1
Harris	3	66	22.0	32	0
Cunningham	2	21	10.5	13	0
Thornton	1	22	22.0	22	0

INTERCEPTIONS

Los Angeles	No.	Yards	Long	TD
Elmendorf	1	10	10	0
Brown	1	6	6	0
Perry	1	-1	-1	0
Thomas	0	6	6	0
Pittsburgh				
Lambert	1	16	16	0

PUNTING

Los Angeles	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long
Clark	5	220	44.0	59
Pittsburgh				
Colquitt	2	85	42.5	50

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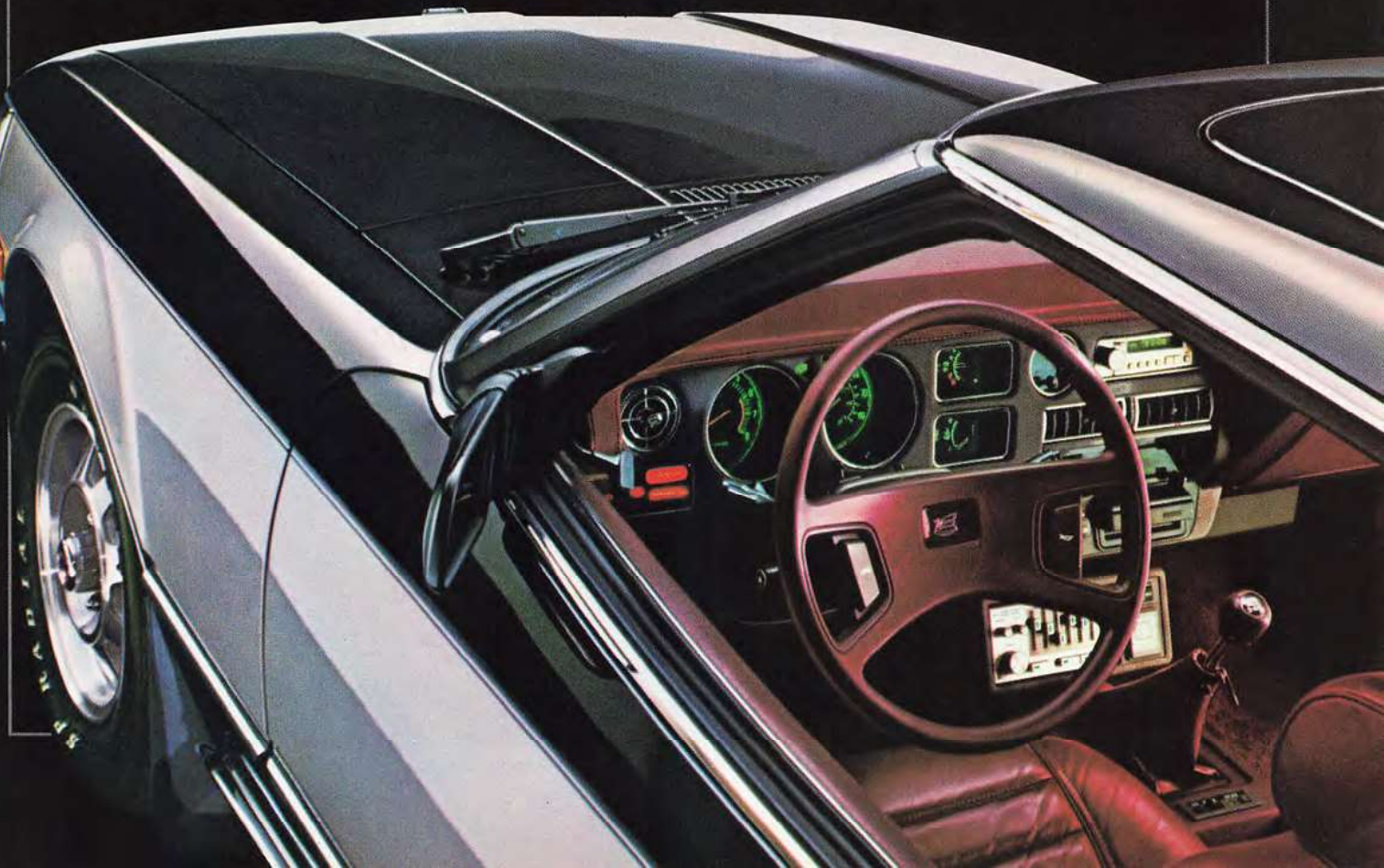

Super Bowl Champions

A 14-YEAR HISTORY OF PRO FOOTBALL'S BIGGEST GAME

McGee helped Packers win the inaugural.

SUPER BOWL I, JANUARY 15, 1967
Green Bay 35, Kansas City 10, at Los Angeles, 61,946—The Packers (NFL) and the Chiefs (AFL) met in the "First AFL-NFL World Championship Game"; official use of the term "Super Bowl" was still two years away. Bart Starr threw two touchdown passes, Max McGee caught seven passes for 138 yards, and the Packers easily defeated the Chiefs. Starr was named the game's most valuable player.

Namath called the shots in game III.

SUPER BOWL II, JANUARY 14, 1968
Green Bay 33, Oakland 14, at Miami, 75,546—Bart Starr passed for 202 yards and earned his second Super Bowl most valuable player award, Don Chandler kicked four field goals, and Herb Adderley returned an interception 60 yards for a touchdown as the Packers won their second straight world title. The game was the last for Vince Lombardi as Packers head coach, ending nine years in Green Bay.

SUPER BOWL III, JANUARY 12, 1969
N.Y. Jets 16, Baltimore 7, at Miami, 75,389—At a sports dinner at Miami Springs Villa the Thursday before the game, Jets quarterback Joe Namath said, "We are going to win on Sunday, I guarantee you." He made good his promise, completing 17 of 28 passes for 206 yards while directing an attack that dominated Baltimore from start to finish. To no one's surprise, Namath was named the most valuable player.

SUPER BOWL IV, JANUARY 11, 1970
Kansas City 23, Minnesota 7, at New Orleans, 80,562—Kansas City, sparked by Len Dawson's superb quarterbacking and a rugged defense, built a 16-0 halftime lead in its victory over Minnesota. Dawson, the fourth consecutive quarterback to be chosen the Super Bowl's top player, completed 12 of 17 passes for 142 yards and a touchdown. The Chiefs' defense held the Vikings' potent running game to 67 yards.

SUPER BOWL V, JANUARY 17, 1971
Baltimore 16, Dallas 13, at Miami, 79,204—The NFL realigned for the 1970 season, and Baltimore, representing the American Football Conference, defeated the National Football Conference's Dallas Cowboys on a 32-yard field goal by Jim O'Brien on the last play of the game. Dallas linebacker Chuck Howley became the first defensive player to win the Super Bowl most valuable player award.

SUPER BOWL VI, JANUARY 16, 1972
Dallas 24, Miami 3, at New Orleans, 81,023—Long before, Dallas had lost NFL championship games to Green Bay, thus narrowly missing Super Bowls I and II. And they had lost game V to Baltimore. Were they jinxed? They proved they weren't in Super Bowl VI. Roger Staubach, the game's most valuable player, completed 12 of 19 passes for 119 yards and two touchdowns, and enigmatic running back Duane Thomas rushed for 95 yards and one touchdown.

SUPER BOWL VII, JANUARY 14, 1973
Miami 14, Washington 7, at Los Angeles, 90,182—An added feature of Super Bowl VII was the Miami Dolphins' quest to become the first unbeaten-untied team in NFL history; they had a 16-0 record prior to their meeting with the Washington Redskins. The Dolphins posted a pair of first half touchdowns and held the Redskins scoreless until the fourth quarter. Dolphins safety Jake Scott was most valuable player.

SUPER BOWL VIII, JANUARY 13, 1974
Miami 24, Minnesota 7, at Houston, 71,882—The defending champion Dolphins scored the first two times they had the ball and coasted to a victory over the Vikings. Miami became the first team since the 1966-67 Green Bay Packers to win consecutive Super Bowls. Dolphins running back Larry Csonka rushed 33 times for a record 145 yards and two touchdowns to win the most valuable player award.

SUPER BOWL IX, JANUARY 12, 1975
Pittsburgh 16, Minnesota 6, at New Orleans, 80,997—In 1969, the Pittsburgh Steelers had a 1-13 record. Five seasons later they completed a total turnaround by winning Super Bowl IX. The victory ended a 42-year wait for a championship by 75-year-old Steelers owner Art Rooney, who was given the game ball by his players. Franco Harris, who set a Super Bowl rushing record of 158 yards, was most valuable player.

SUPER BOWL X, JANUARY 18, 1976
Pittsburgh 21, Dallas 17, at Miami, 80,187—Pittsburgh beat Dallas (the first wild card team to play in the Super Bowl) and joined a select group—Miami and Green Bay—as the only two-time winners of the Super Bowl. The Steelers' Lynn Swann caught four passes for a Super Bowl record 161 yards—including a 64-yard touchdown—and was named most valuable player. Pittsburgh's "Steel Curtain" defense sacked Dallas's Roger Staubach seven times.

Stabler's arm guided Raiders in game XI.

SUPER BOWL XI, JANUARY 9, 1977
Oakland 32, Minnesota 14, at Pasadena, 103,438—Oakland set Super Bowl records for total offense (429 yards) and rushing yardage

Csonka and Dolphins won second straight title, decimating Minnesota in game VIII.

(266) as they totally dominated the Vikings. Raiders wide receiver Fred Biletnikoff made four receptions for 79 yards and was voted most valuable player; quarterback Ken Stabler completed 12 of 19 passes for 180 yards and a touchdown. The Vikings' loss was their fourth without a victory in the Super Bowl.

Cowboys' defense spelled doom for Broncos.

SUPER BOWL XII, JANUARY 15, 1978
Dallas 27, Denver 10, at New Orleans, 75,583—Dallas's "Doomsday II" defense overshadowed Denver's more publicized "Orange Crush" in leading the Cowboys to their second world title. Dallas forced eight turnovers, sacked Denver quarterbacks four times, and limited the Broncos to 156 net yards. End Harvey Martin and tackle Randy White, the right side of Dallas's defensive line, shared the most valuable player award.

Bradshaw was hot, Steelers won game XIII.

SUPER BOWL XIII, JANUARY 21, 1979
Pittsburgh 35, Dallas 31, at Miami, 79,484—Pittsburgh became the first team— and Chuck Noll the first head coach—to win three Super Bowls as the Steelers held off the Cowboys in the highest-scoring game in the 13-year history of the Super Bowl. Pittsburgh's Terry Bradshaw, who was voted most valuable player, threw a record four touchdowns and passed for 318 yards, 253 of them in the first half.

SUPER BOWL XIV, JANUARY 20, 1980
Pittsburgh 31, Los Angeles 19, at Pasadena, 103,985—Terry Bradshaw (14 completions in 21 attempts) gained his second consecutive most valuable player award, leading a second-half Pittsburgh rally that produced an unprecedented fourth Super Bowl title before a record crowd. John Stallworth (3 receptions for 121 yards) scored on a 73-yard play, and Lynn Swann (5 receptions for 79 yards) caught a 47-yard touchdown pass. Franco Harris ran for two short-yardage scores.

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Super Bowl Records

Individual Records

Service

Most games
- 5 Marv Fleming, Green Bay, I, II; Miami, VI, VII
  Larry Cole, Dallas, V, VI, X, XII, XIII
  Cliff Harris, Dallas, V, VI, X, XII, XIII
  D.D. Lewis, Dallas, V, VI, X, XII, XIII
  Preston Pearson, Baltimore, III; Pittsburgh, IX; Dallas, X, XII, XIII
  Charlie Waters, Dallas, V, VI, X, XII, XIII
  Rayfield Wright, Dallas, V, VI, X, XII, XIII
- 4 By many players

Most games, winning team
- 4 By many players

Most games, coach
- 5 Tom Landry, Dallas, V, VI, X, XII, XIII
- 4 Don Shula, Baltimore, III; Miami, VI, VII, VIII
  Harry (Bud) Grant, Minnesota, IV, VIII, IX, XI
  Chuck Noll, Pittsburgh, IX, X, XIII, XIV

Most games, winning team, coach
- 4 Chuck Noll, Pittsburgh, IX, X, XIII, XIV
- 2 Vince Lombardi, Green Bay, I, II
  Don Shula, Miami, VII, VIII
  Tom Landry, Dallas, VI, XII

Scoring

Most points, career
- 24 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games (4-td)
- 20 Don Chandler, Green Bay, 2 games (8-pat, 4-fg)

Most points, game
- 15 Don Chandler, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II (3-pat, 4-fg)

Most touchdowns, career
- 4 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games (4-r)
- 3 John Stallworth, Pittsburgh, 4 games (3-p)
  Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, 4 games (3-p)

Most touchdowns, game
- 2 Max McGee, Green Bay vs. Kansas City, I (2-p)
  Elijah Pitts, Green Bay vs. Kansas City, I (2-r)
  Bill Miller, Oakland vs. Green Bay, II (2-p)
  Larry Csonka, Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII (2-r)
  Pete Banaszak, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI (2-r)
  John Stallworth, Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XIII (2-p)
  Franco Harris, Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV (2-r)

Most points after touchdown, career
- 8 Don Chandler, Green Bay, 2 games (8 att)
  Roy Gerela, Pittsburgh, 3 games (9 att)
- 5 Garo Yepremian, Miami, 3 games (5 att)

Most points after touchdown, game
- 5 Don Chandler, Green Bay vs. Kansas City, I (5 att)
  Roy Gerela, Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XIII (5 att)

Most field goals attempted, career
- 7 Roy Gerela, Pittsburgh, 3 games
- 6 Jim Turner, N.Y. Jets-Denver, 2 games

Most field goals attempted, game
- 5 Jim Turner, N.Y. Jets vs. Baltimore, III
  Efren Herrera, Dallas vs. Denver, XII

Most field goals, career
- 4 Don Chandler, Green Bay, 2 games (4 att)
  Jim Turner, N.Y. Jets-Denver, 2 games (6 att)
- 3 Mike Clark, Dallas, 2 games (3 att)
  Jan Stenerud, Kansas City, 1 game (3 att)

Most field goals, game
- 4 Don Chandler, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II

Longest field goal
- 48 Jan Stenerud, Kansas City vs. Minnesota, IV

Most safeties, game
- 1 Dwight White, Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX
  Reggie Harrison, Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, X

Rushing

Most attempts, career
- 101 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
- 57 Larry Csonka, Miami, 3 games

Most attempts, game
- 34 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX

Most yards gained, career
- 354 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
- 297 Larry Csonka, Miami, 3 games

Most yards gained, game
- 158 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX

Longest run from scrimmage
- 58 Tom Matte, Baltimore vs. N.Y. Jets, III

Highest average gain, career (20 attempts)
- 5.3 Walt Garrison, Dallas, 2 games (26-139)
- 5.2 Tony Dorsett, Dallas, 2 games (31-162)

Highest average gain, game (10 attempts)
- 10.5 Tom Matte, Baltimore vs. N.Y. Jets, III (11-116)

Most touchdowns, career
- 4 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
- 2 Elijah Pitts, Green Bay, 1 game
  Jim Kiick, Miami, 3 games
  Larry Csonka, Miami, 3 games
  Pete Banaszak, Oakland, 2 games

Most touchdowns, game
- 2 Elijah Pitts, Green Bay vs. Kansas City, I
  Larry Csonka, Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII
  Pete Banaszak, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI
  Franco Harris, Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV

I	Jan. 15, 1967	Green Bay 35, Kansas City 10
II	Jan. 14, 1968	Green Bay 33, Oakland 14
III	Jan. 12, 1969	New York Jets 16, Baltimore 7
IV	Jan. 11, 1970	Kansas City 23, Minnesota 7
V	Jan. 17, 1971	Baltimore 16, Dallas 13
VI	Jan. 16, 1972	Dallas 24, Miami 3
VII	Jan. 14, 1973	Miami 14, Washington 7
VIII	Jan. 13, 1974	Miami 24, Minnesota 7
IX	Jan. 12, 1975	Pittsburgh 16, Minnesota 6
X	Jan. 18, 1976	Pittsburgh 21, Dallas 17
XI	Jan. 9, 1977	Oakland 32, Minnesota 14
XII	Jan. 15, 1978	Dallas 27, Denver 10
XIII	Jan. 21, 1979	Pittsburgh 35, Dallas 31
XIV	Jan. 20, 1980	Pittsburgh 31, Los Angeles 19

Terry Bradshaw holds seven passing records.

Passing

Most attempts, career
- 98 Roger Staubach, Dallas, 4 games
- 89 Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota, 3 games

Most attempts, game
- 35 Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota vs. Oakland, XI

Most completions, career
- 61 Roger Staubach, Dallas, 4 games
- 49 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh, 4 games

Most completions, game
- 18 Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota vs. Miami, VIII

Highest completion percentage, career (40 attempts)
- 63.6 Len Dawson, Kansas City, 2 games (44-28)
- 63.4 Bob Griese, Miami, 3 games (41-26)

Highest completion percentage, game (20 attempts)
- 69.6 Bart Starr, Green Bay vs. Kansas City, I (23-16)

Most yards gained, career
- 932 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh, 4 games
- 734 Roger Staubach, Dallas, 4 games

Most yards gained, game
- 318 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XIII

Longest completion
- 75 Johnny Unitas (to Mackey), Baltimore vs. Dallas, V (TD)
  Terry Bradshaw (to Stallworth), Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XIII (TD)

Highest average gain, career (40 attempts)
- 11.10 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh, 4 games (84-932)
- 9.62 Bart Starr, Green Bay, 2 games (47-452)

Highest average gain, game (20 attempts)
- 14.71 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV (21-309)

Most touchdowns, career
- 9 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh, 4 games
- 8 Roger Staubach, Dallas, 4 games

Most touchdowns, game
- 4 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XIII

Lowest percentage, passes had intercepted, career (40 attempts)
- 2.13 Bart Starr, Green Bay, 2 games (47-1)
- 4.08 Roger Staubach, Dallas, 4 games (98-4)

Most attempts, without interception, game
- 28 Joe Namath, N.Y. Jets vs. Baltimore, III

Most had intercepted, career
- 7 Craig Morton, Dallas-Denver, 2 games
- 6 Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota, 3 games

Most had intercepted, game
- 4 Craig Morton, Denver vs. Dallas, XII

Pass receptions

Most receptions, career
- 16 Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, 4 games
- 15 Chuck Foreman, Minnesota, 3 games

Most receptions, game
- 8 George Sauer, N.Y. Jets vs. Baltimore, III

Most yards gained, career
- 364 Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, 4 games
- 268 John Stallworth, Pittsburgh, 4 games

Most yards gained, game
- 161 Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, X

Longest reception
- 75 John Mackey (from Unitas), Baltimore vs. Dallas, V (TD)
  John Stallworth (from Bradshaw), Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XIII (TD)

Highest average gain, career (8 receptions)
- 24.4 John Stallworth, Pittsburgh, 4 games (11-268)
- 22.8 Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, 4 games (16-364)

Highest average gain, game (3 receptions)
- 40.3 John Stallworth, Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV (3-121)

Most touchdowns, career
- 3 John Stallworth, Pittsburgh, 4 games
  Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, 4 games
- 2 Max McGee, Green Bay, 2 games
  Bill Miller, Oakland, 1 game
  Butch Johnson, Dallas, 2 games

Most touchdowns, game
- 2 Max McGee, Green Bay vs. Kansas City, I
  Bill Miller, Oakland vs. Green Bay, II
  John Stallworth, Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XIII

Punting

Most punts, career
- 17 Mike Eischeid, Oakland-Minnesota, 3 games
- 15 Larry Seiple, Miami, 3 games

Most punts, game
- 9 Ron Widby, Dallas vs. Baltimore, V

Longest punt
- 61 Jerrel Wilson, Kansas City vs. Green Bay, I

Highest average, punting, career (10 punts)
- 46.5 Jerrel Wilson, Kansas City, 2 games
- 41.3 Larry Seiple, Miami, 3 games

Highest average, punting, game (4 punts)
- 48.5 Jerrel Wilson, Kansas City vs. Minnesota, IV

Punt Returns

Most punt returns, career
- 6 Willie Wood, Green Bay, 2 games
  Jake Scott, Miami, 3 games
  Theo Bell, Pittsburgh, 2 games
- 4 By six players

Most punt returns, game
- 5 Willie Wood, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II

Most fair catches, game
- 3 Ron Gardin, Baltimore vs. Dallas, V
  Golden Richards, Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, X

Most yards gained, career
- 45 Jake Scott, Miami, 3 games
- 44 Theo Bell, Pittsburgh, 2 games

Most yards gained, game
- 43 Neal Colzie, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI

Longest return
- 31 Willie Wood, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II

Highest average, career (4 returns)
- 10.8 Neal Colzie, Oakland, 1 game
- 8.5 Tim Brown, Baltimore, 1 game

Highest average, game (3 returns)
- 11.3 Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX

Most touchdowns, game
- None

Super Bowl Records Continued

Kickoff returns

Most kickoff returns, career
8 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh, 2 games
7 Preston Pearson, Baltimore-Pittsburgh-Dallas, 5 games

Most kickoff returns, game
5 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV

Most yards gained, career
207 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh, 2 games
123 Eugene (Mercury) Morris, Miami, 3 games

Most yards gained, game
162 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV

Longest return
67 Rick Upchurch, Denver vs. Dallas, XII

Highest average, career (4 returns)
25.9 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh, 2 games
22.5 Jim Duncan, Baltimore, 1 game

Highest average, game (3 returns)
32.4 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV

Most touchdowns, game
None

Interceptions by

Most interceptions by, career
3 Chuck Howley, Dallas, 2 games
2 Randy Beverly, N.Y. Jets, 1 game
Jake Scott, Miami, 3 games
Mike Wagner, Pittsburgh, 3 games
Mel Blount, Pittsburgh, 4 games

Most interceptions by, game
2 Randy Beverly, N.Y. Jets vs. Baltimore, III
Chuck Howley, Dallas vs. Baltimore, V
Jake Scott, Miami vs. Washington, VII

Most yards gained, career
75 Willie Brown, Oakland, 2 games
63 Chuck Howley, Dallas, 2 games
Jake Scott, Miami 3 games

Most yards gained, game
75 Willie Brown, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI

Longest return
75 Willie Brown, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI (TD)

Most touchdowns, game
1 Herb Adderley, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II
Willie Brown, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI

Fumbles

Most fumbles, career
5 Roger Staubach, Dallas, 4 games
Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh, 4 games

Most fumbles, game
3 Roger Staubach, Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, X

Most fumbles recovered, career
2 Jake Scott, Miami, 3 games (1 own, 1 opp)
Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota, 3 games (2 own)
Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games (2 own)
Roger Staubach, Dallas, 4 games (2 own)
Bobby Walden, Pittsburgh, 2 games (2 own)
John Fitzgerald, Dallas, 4 games (2 own)
Randy Hughes, Dallas, 3 games (2 opp)
Butch Johnson, Dallas, 2 games (2 own)

Most fumbles recovered, game
2 Jake Scott, Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII (1 own, 1 opp)
Roger Staubach, Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, X (2 own)
Randy Hughes, Dallas vs. Denver, XII (2 opp)
Butch Johnson, Dallas vs. Denver, XII (2 own)

Most yards gained, game
49 Mike Bass, Washington vs. Miami, VII (opp)

Longest return
49 Mike Bass, Washington vs. Miami, VII (TD)

Most touchdowns, game
1 Mike Bass, Washington vs. Miami, VII (opp 49 yds)
Mike Hegman, Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, XIII, (opp 37 yds)

Combined net yards gained

Most attempts, career
108 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
60 Larry Csonka, Miami, 3 games

Most attempts, game
35 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX

Most yards gained, career
468 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
391 Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, 4 games

Most yards gained, game
162 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV

Team Records

Games, victories, defeats

Most games
5 Dallas, V, VI, X, XII, XIII

Most consecutive games
3 Miami, VI, VII, VIII

Most games won
4 Pittsburgh, IX, X, XIII, XIV

Most consecutive games won
2 Green Bay, I, II
Miami, VII, VIII
Pittsburgh, IX, X, XIII, XIV

Most games lost
4 Minnesota, IV, VIII, IX XI

Most consecutive games lost
2 Minnesota, VIII, IX

Scoring

Most points, game
35 Green Bay vs. Kansas City, I
Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XIII

Fewest points, game
3 Miami vs. Dallas, VI

Most points, both teams, game
66 Pittsburgh (35) vs. Dallas (31), XIII

Fewest points, both teams, game
21 Washington (7) vs. Miami (14), VII

Most points, each half
1st: 21 Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XIII
2nd: 21 Green Bay vs. Kansas City, I
Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV

Most points, each quarter
1st: 14 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII
2nd: 16 Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI
3rd: 14 Green Bay vs. Kansas City, I
4th: 14 Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, X; vs. Dallas, XIII; vs. Los Angeles, XIV

Most points, both teams, each half
1st: 35 Pittsburgh (21) vs. Dallas (14), XIII
2nd: 31 Dallas (17) vs. Pittsburgh (14), XIII

Most points, both teams, each quarter
1st: 14 Miami (14) vs. Minnesota (0), VIII
Dallas (7) vs. Pittsburgh (7), X, XIII
2nd: 21 Pittsburgh (14) vs. Dallas (7), XIII
3rd: 17 Denver (10) vs. Dallas (7), XII
4th: 28 Dallas (14) vs. Pittsburgh (14), XIII

Most touchdowns, game
5 Green Bay vs. Kansas City, I
Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XIII

Fewest touchdowns, Game
0 Miami vs. Dallas, VI

Most touchdowns, both teams, game
9 Pittsburgh (5) vs. Dallas (4), XIII

Fewest touchdowns, both teams, game
2 Baltimore (1) vs. N.Y. Jets (1), III

Most points after touchdown, game
5 Green Bay vs. Kansas City, I
Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XIII

Most points after touchdown, both teams, game
9 Pittsburgh (5) vs. Dallas (4), XIII

Fewest points after touchdown, both teams, game
2 Baltimore (1) vs. N.Y. Jets (1), III
Baltimore (1) vs. Dallas (1), V
Minnesota (0) vs. Pittsburgh (2), IX

Most field goals attempted, game
5 N.Y. Jets vs. Baltimore, III
Dallas vs. Denver, XII

Most field goals attempted, both teams, game
7 N.Y. Jets (5) vs. Baltimore (2), III

Fewest field goals attempted, both teams, game
1 Minnesota (0) vs. Miami (1), VIII

Most field goals, game
4 Green Bay vs. Oakland, II

Most field goals, both teams, game
4 Green Bay (4) vs. Oakland (0), II

Fewest field goals, both teams, game
0 Miami vs. Washington, VII
Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX

Most safeties, game
1 Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX; vs. Dallas, X

First downs

Most first downs, game
23 Dallas vs. Miami, VI

Fewest first downs, game
9 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, X

Most first downs, both teams, game
41 Oakland (21) vs. Minnesota (20), XI

Fewest first downs, both teams, game
24 Dallas (10) vs. Baltimore (14), V

Most first downs, rushing, game
15 Dallas vs. Miami, VI

Fewest first downs, rushing, game
2 Minnesota vs. Kansas City, IV; vs. Pittsburgh, IX
Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XIII

Most first downs, rushing, both teams, game
18 Dallas (15) vs. Miami (3), VI
Miami (13) vs. Minnesota (5), VIII

Fewest first downs, rushing, both teams, game
8 Baltimore (4) vs. Dallas (4), V
Pittsburgh (2) vs. Dallas (6), XIII

Most first downs, passing, game
15 Minnesota vs. Oakland, XI
Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XIII

Fewest first downs, passing, game
1 Denver vs. Dallas, XII

Most first downs, passing, both teams, game
28 Pittsburgh (15) vs. Dallas (13), XIII

Fewest first downs, passing, both teams, game
9 Denver (1) vs. Dallas (8), XII

Most first downs, penalty, game
4 Baltimore vs. Dallas, V
Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Most first downs, penalty, both teams, game
5 Baltimore (4) vs. Dallas (1), V
Miami (4) vs. Minnesota (1), VIII

Fewest first downs, penalty, both teams, game
0 Dallas vs. Miami, VI
Miami vs. Washington, VII
Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, X

Net yards gained rushing and passing

Most yards gained, game
429 Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI

Fewest yards gained, game
119 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX

Most yards gained, both teams, game
782 Oakland (429) vs. Minnesota (353), XI

Fewest yards gained, both teams, game
452 Minnesota (119) vs. Pittsburgh (333), IX

Rushing

Most attempts, game
57 Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX

Fewest attempts, game
19 Kansas City vs. Green Bay, I
Minnesota vs. Kansas City, IV

Most attempts, both teams, game
78 Pittsburgh (57) vs. Minnesota (21), IX
Oakland (52) vs. Minnesota (26), XI

Fewest attempts, both teams, game
52 Kansas City (19) vs. Green Bay (33), I

Most yards gained, game
266 Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI

Fewest yards gained, game
17 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX

Most yards gained, both teams, game
337 Oakland (266) vs. Minnesota (71), XI

Fewest yards gained, both teams, game
171 Baltimore (69) vs. Dallas (102), V

Highest average gain, game
6.22 Baltimore vs. N.Y. Jets, III (23-143)

Lowest average gain, game
0.81 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX (21-17)

Most touchdowns, game
3 Green Bay vs. Kansas City I
Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Fewest touchdowns, game
0 By nine teams

Most touchdowns, both teams, game
4 Miami (3) vs. Minnesota (1), VIII

Fewest touchdowns, both teams, game
0 Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, X

Passing

Most passes attempted, game
44 Minnesota vs. Oakland, XI

Fewest passes attempted, game
7 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Most passes attempted, both teams, game
70 Baltimore (41) vs. N.Y. Jets (29), III

Fewest passes attempted, both teams, game
35 Miami (7) vs. Minnesota (28), VIII

Most passes completed, game
24 Minnesota vs. Oakland, XI

Fewest passes completed, game
6 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Most passes completed, both teams, game
36 Minnesota (24) vs. Oakland (12), XI

Fewest passes completed, both teams, game
20 Pittsburgh (9) vs. Minnesota (11), IX

Highest completion percentage, game (20 attempts)
67.9 Dallas vs. Denver, XII (28-19)

Lowest completion percentage, game (20 attempts)
32.0 Denver vs. Dallas, XII (25-8)

Most yards gained, game
309 Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV

Fewest yards gained, game
35 Denver vs. Dallas, XII

Most yards gained, both teams, game
503 Pittsburgh (309) vs. Los Angeles (194), XIV

Fewest yards gained, both teams, game
156 Miami (69) vs. Washington (87), VII

Most times tackled, attempting passes, game
7 Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, X

Fewest times tackled, attempting passes, game
0 Baltimore vs. N.Y. Jets, III; vs. Dallas, V
Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX
Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV

Most times tackled, attempting passes, both teams, game
9 Kansas City (6) vs. Green Bay (3), I
Dallas (7) vs. Pittsburgh (2), X
Dallas (5) vs. Denver (4), XII
Dallas (5) vs. Pittsburgh (4), XIII

Fewest times tackled, attempting passes, both teams, game
2 Baltimore (0) vs. N.Y. Jets (2), III
Baltimore (0) vs. Dallas (2), V
Minnesota (0) vs. Pittsburgh (2), IX

Most touchdowns, game
4 Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XIII

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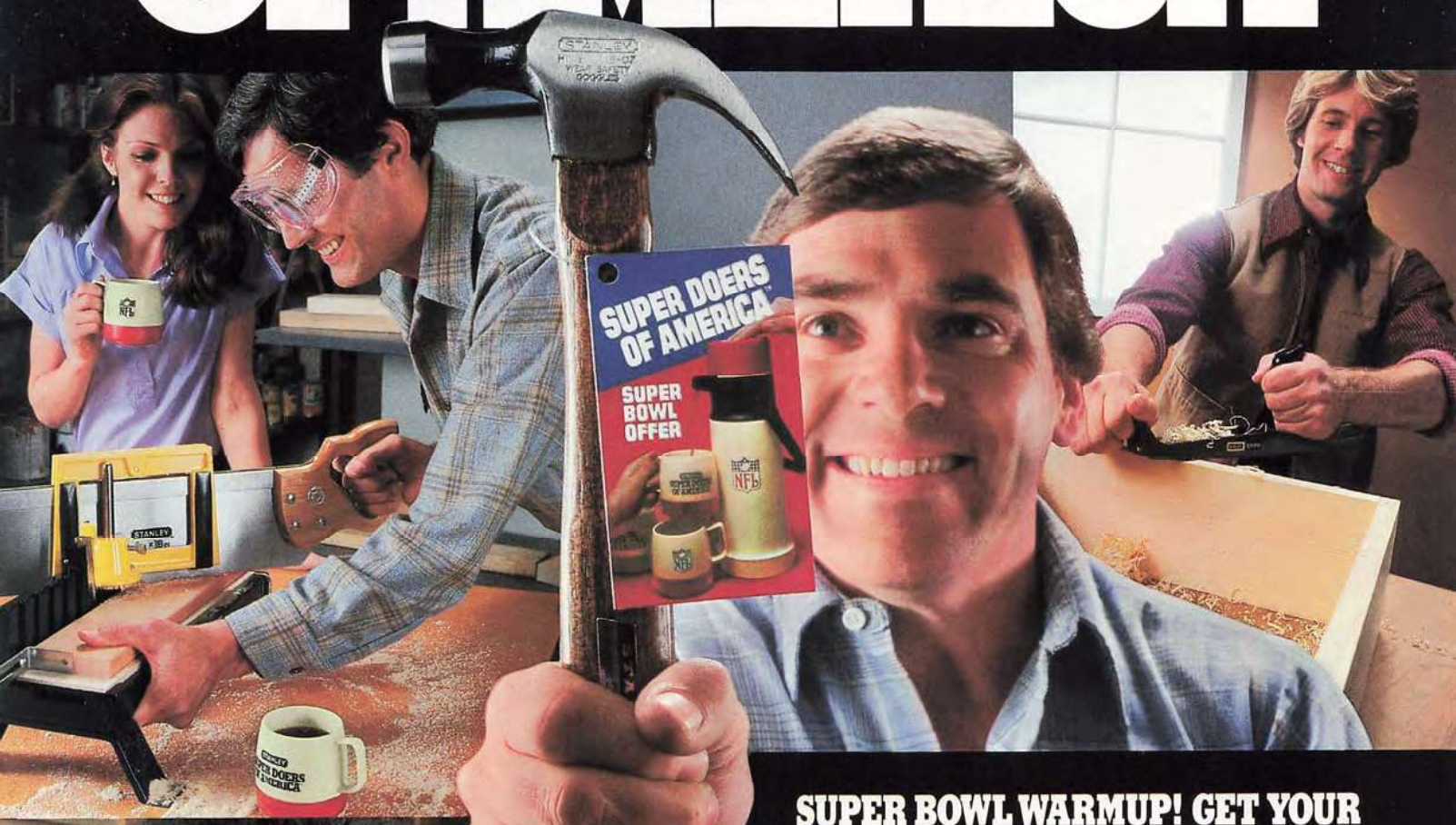

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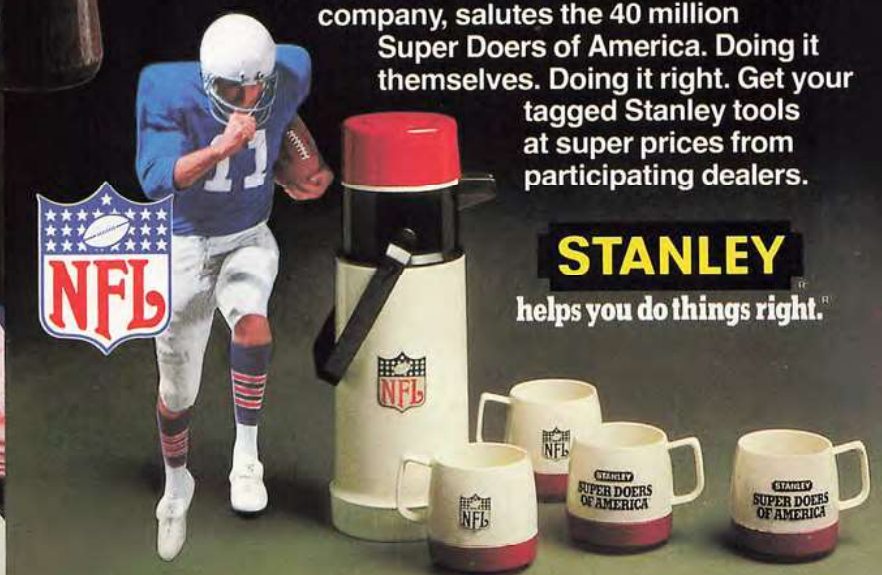

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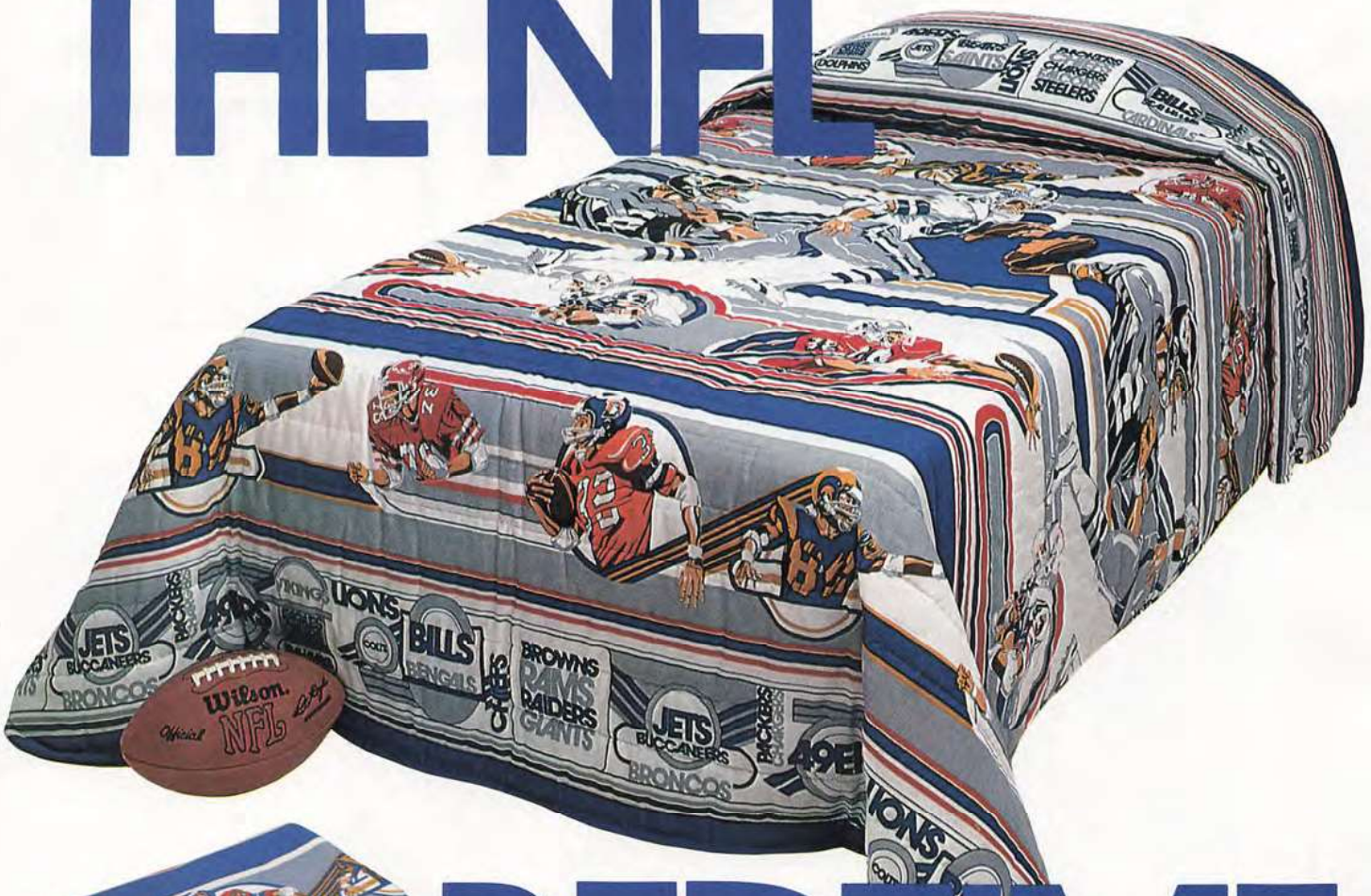
THE NFL BEDTIME LINEUP



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Los Angeles
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New England
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L. S. Good & Co.
Hill's Department Stores
Jamesway
All stores
Kaufman's Budget Linens
All stores
Penn Traffic
All stores

St. Louis
Casey's Superfan Shop
David's Home Fashion,
Memphis

San Diego
Mervyn's

San Francisco
Mervyn's
The Locker Room

Seattle
The Locker Room

Tampa
Belk-Lindsey Department Store

Washington, D.C.
Woodward and Lothrop Department Store
All stores except Pentagon

Super Bowl Records Continued

Fewest touchdowns, game
0 By nine teams
Most touchdowns, both teams, game
7 Pittsburgh (4) vs. Dallas (3), XIII
Fewest touchdowns, both teams, game
0 N.Y. Jets vs. Baltimore, III
Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Interceptions by

Most interceptions by, game
4 N.Y. Jets vs. Baltimore, III
Dallas vs. Denver, XII
Most interceptions by, both teams, game
6 Baltimore (3) vs. Dallas (3), V
Most yards gained, game
95 Miami vs. Washington, VII
Most yards gained, both teams, game
95 Miami (95) vs. Washington (0), VII
Most touchdowns, game
1 Green Bay vs. Oakland, II
Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI

Punting

Most punts, game
9 Dallas vs. Baltimore, V
Fewest punts, game
2 Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV
Most punts, both teams, game
13 Dallas (9) vs. Baltimore (4), V
Pittsburgh (7) vs. Minnesota (6), IX
Fewest punts, both teams, game
7 Baltimore (3) vs. N.Y. Jets (4), III
Minnesota (3) vs. Kansas City (4), IV
Pittsburgh (2) vs. Los Angeles (5), XIV
Highest average, game (4 punts)
48.5 Kansas City, IV
Lowest average, game (4 punts)
31.2 Washington, VII

Punt returns

Most punt returns, game
5 Green Bay vs. Oakland, II
Baltimore vs. Dallas, V
Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX; vs. Dallas, X
Fewest punt returns, game
0 Minnesota vs. Miami, VIII
Most punt returns, both teams, game
9 Pittsburgh (5) vs. Minnesota (4), IX
Fewest punt returns, both teams, game
2 Dallas (1) vs. Miami (1), VI
Most yards gained, game
43 Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI
Fewest yards gained, game
−1 Dallas vs. Miami, VI
Most yards gained, both teams, Game
60 Dallas (33) vs. Pittsburgh (27), XIII
Fewest yards gained, both teams, game
13 Miami (4) vs. Washington (9), VII
Highest average, game (3 returns)
10.8 Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI
Most touchdowns, game
None

Kickoff returns

Most kickoff returns, game
7 Oakland vs. Green Bay, II
Minnesota vs. Oakland, XI
Fewest kickoff returns, game
1 N.Y. Jets vs. Baltimore, III
Most kickoff returns, both teams, game
11 Los Angeles (6) vs. Pittsburgh (5), XIV
Fewest kickoff returns, both teams, game
5 N.Y. Jets (1) vs. Baltimore (4), III
Miami (2) vs. Washington (3), VII
Most yards gained, game
173 Denver vs. Dallas, XII
Fewest yards gained, game
25 N.Y. Jets vs. Baltimore, III
Most yards gained, both teams, game
241 Pittsburgh (162) vs. Los Angeles (79), XIV
Fewest yards gained, both teams, game
78 Miami (33) vs. Washington (45), VII
Highest average, game (3 returns)
32.4 Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV
Most touchdowns, game
None

Penalties

Most penalties, game
12 Dallas vs. Denver, XII
Fewest penalties, game
0 Miami vs. Dallas, VI
Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, X
Most penalties, both teams, game
20 Dallas (12) vs. Denver (8), XII
Fewest penalties, both teams, game
2 Pittsburgh (0) vs. Dallas (2), X
Most yards penalized, game
133 Dallas vs. Baltimore, V
Most yards penalized, both teams, game
164 Dallas (133) vs. Baltimore (31), V

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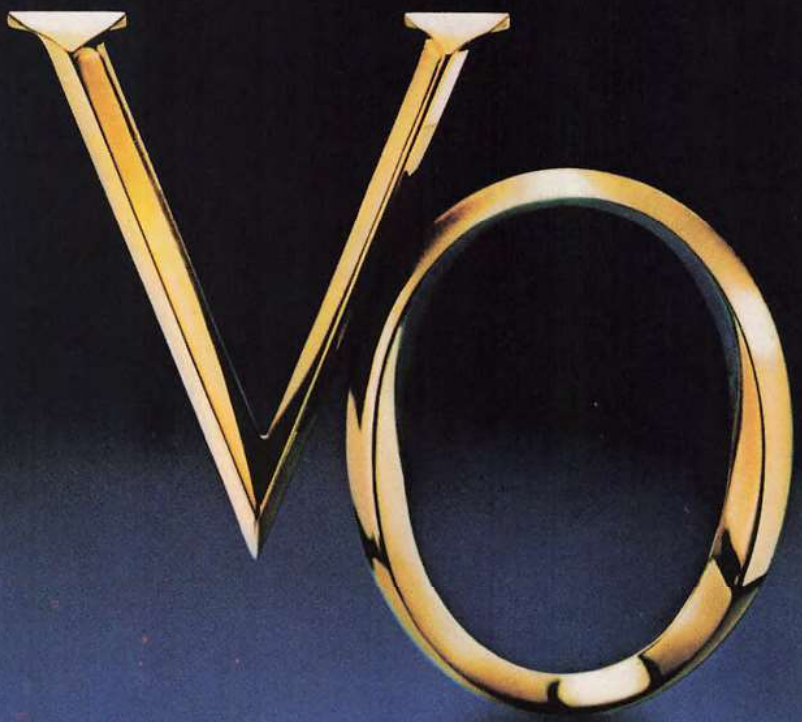

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SUPER BOWL RINGS, THE VINCE LOMBARDI TROPHY

Throughout history a great deal of meaning has been attached to rings. They have been worn to symbolize wealth, power, privilege, and achievement.

In the NFL, the ultimate achievement is winning the Super Bowl. The individual members of the world championship organization earn the right to wear a unique ring as an instantly recognizable mark of their success.

The rings are unique for several reasons. Each Super Bowl champion is allowed to design its own, subject to guidelines—including costs—set by the commissioner.

They are produced in a very limited quantity—approximately 75 per club—and they are generally given only to the players, coaches, staff aides, and front office staff.

Three manufacturers have supplied the 14 Super Bowl rings. Josten's of Minneapolis, Minnesota, has designed 10; L.G. Balfour of Attleboro, Massachusetts, has done 3; and the Oakland Raiders commissioned Lenox Awards, Inc. of St. Charles, Illinois, to design theirs after Super Bowl XI.

Josten's chief designer Ken Westerlund has been involved in the production of Pittsburgh's four Super Bowl championship rings, working closely on the designs with the Steelers. "What is unique about their Super Bowl XIV ring," says Westerlund, "is its Florentine finish and the fact that it is smaller, more a fashion ring and less ostentatious than many championship rings. When we showed the ring to Steelers owner Art Rooney, he tried it on and beamed. 'I can even wear this one,' he said. 'With the others on, I couldn't bend my knuckle.'"

"We feel there are certain features that should be on the rings," adds Steelers president Dan Rooney. "The most important is some symbol of the game. On our Super Bowl X ring in 1976, we used the official Bicentennial mark along with the game's theme art logotype. We also incorporated the game logotype on our Super Bowl XIII and XIV rings. For the top of the ring from game XIII, we had a unique situation. Our logo, with its three hypercycloid star shapes, was perfectly suited as a setting for three diamonds symbolizing our three Super Bowl victories. The players wanted a little more sparkle on that ring and they got it.

Game I Green Bay Packers
Josten's

Vince Lombardi and his two captains, tackle Bob Skoronski and defensive end Willie Davis, worked with Ken Westerlund to design the ring that commemorates the Super Bowl I championship. It is 10k gold and features a one-karat diamond inset in a white gold hemispheric globe. In 1967, gold cost about $32 an ounce. That price has risen to about $600 an ounce today. On one side of the shank, Westerlund developed a detail from the Lombardi family coat of arms and combined it in a pattern with emblems of the AFL and NFL. The opposite shank featues the scores of the 1966 NFL championship game and Super Bowl I. The ring weighs 23 pennyweight.

Game II Green Bay Packers
Josten's

Super Bowl II culminated Lombardi's coaching career with the Packers, and he spared no effort in having a ring that exemplified his years of glory. Again, Josten's designed the ring, which is 10k gold and features one full-karat diamond and two half-karat diamonds set in a football-shaped tourmaline. The words "Challenge" and "Run to Win" are featured on one shank together with pennants flying from an outline of the NFL shield. On the other shank is a crown surmounted on a world globe. The rings cost $1,900 each in 1968. It is one of the largest of all Super Bowl rings—"a real knuckle buster," says Westerlund. It weighs 30 pennyweight.

"This year we went to a classic type of ring, one that was less flashy. It features only four large diamonds, no other stones. We wanted the four of them to stand out. People see them and know right away what they stand for."

"Luckily," says Rooney, "the league raised the ring price limit in 1978 from $750 to $1,200 to take inflation into account. Otherwise, with the price of gold skyrocketing, we would have ended up with cigar bands the last two years."

All the teams have featured diamonds of one size or another on their rings as well as a variety of synthetic and natural stones that complement the colors of the team. The rings are solid gold, usually 10 karat because it is harder and more resistant to wear. Some of the rings have been 14 karat.

The Super Bowl rings average 25½ pennyweight (20 pennyweight equals one ounce) as compared to a high school class ring, which weighs around seven pennyweight.

Even more than the individual Super Bowl rings, however, the Vince Lombardi Super Bowl trophy symbolizes the championship of professional football. Designed by Oscar Riedener of Tiffany and Company in 1967 for Super Bowl I, the sterling silver trophy stands 20 inches high and weighs approximately seven pounds. It depicts a regulation size football in kicking position on an elongated base with three concave sides. On the front surface of the base is engraved "Vince Lombardi Trophy." Below that appear the NFL shield and the words "Super Bowl" and "AFC vs. NFC." After the game, the trophy is returned to Tiffany's for final engraving of the team names and the score.

According to Patrick Leavy, a Tiffany designer, a new trophy is produced each year. "It is made of very heavy gauge silver, and it is very difficult to assemble, hand chase, and polish," he says. "When we pack it for shipping we wear gloves. Then we watch the presentation on television and see everyone handling it and pouring champagne over it, and we cringe. But it's a tough, well-constructed piece."

Game III New York Jets
Balfour

The Jets, who were the first Super Bowl champions from the American Football League, wanted a ring that eclipsed those of the already legendary Green Bay Packers. The players requested that as many diamonds as possible be set in the ring to commemorate their victory. "Expense was no object," said Balfour designer Norman Shorrock. The ring is 14k gold, featuring a 75-point diamond set in a football-shaped emerald spinel. Six smaller diamonds of approximately 20 points each surround the larger stone. The ring weighs 25 pennyweight and cost more than $2,000 in 1969. "When [New York head coach] Weeb Ewbank heard the figure he couldn't believe it," says Shorrock.

Game IV Kansas City Chiefs
Josten's

The Chiefs, who defeated Minnesota 23-7 in New Orleans for the world championship, were the first team to use the Super Bowl trophy in their ring. Coach Hank Stram and general manager Jack Steadman commissioned Josten's to design a ring that symbolized the victory over the Vikings and acknowledged the club's tenth anniversary. The ring, which weighs 26 pennyweight, is 10k gold, featuring a full-karat diamond surrounded by 10 smaller diamonds—ranging in size from three to five points—set in a white gold football-shaped crest. The crest is set into a glowing synthetic ruby. On one shank is the American Football League seal surrounded by a crown. The other has the game's score above the Super Bowl trophy.

Game V Baltimore Colts
Josten's

General manager Don Klosterman supervised the design of the Colts' ring, working closely with Westerlund. A white gold horseshoe surrounds a full karat diamond, which is set in an unusually large (16mm wide by 14mm high) fire blue spinel. Within the horseshoe are seven five-point blue sapphires, vapor-plated on the back to make them more luminous. On the left shank is each recipient's name, number, and position, the Colts' helmet, and the final score of the game (16-13). The right shank has the year (1970), the Super Bowl trophy, and the inscription "Super Bowl V." The ring, which is made of 10k gold and weighs 26 pennyweight, is unique because of the complicated inverted bezel.

Game VI Dallas Cowboys
Balfour

Shorrock created a stunning ring to commemorate the Cowboys' 24-3 Super Bowl victory over the Miami Dolphins at the Orange Bowl. It features a large synthetic star-shaped sapphire in which is centered an 80-point diamond. Between the points of the star are 15 other diamonds—three 10-point, two 5-point, and 10 one-half-point—creating a setting with a total of one and one-third carats. The ring is 14k white gold with deep-cut detailing. One shank features the Vince Lombardi trophy, the NFL shield, the year, and "Super Bowl VI." On the opposite shank are the Cowboys' helmet,the recipient's name, and in the case of the players, their numbers. It is the lightest of all Super Bowl rings: 21 pennyweight.

Game VII Miami Dolphins
Josten's

Managing general partner Joe Robbie and coach Don Shula wanted something special to commemorate Miami's perfect 17-0 season in 1972, which was capped by the 14-7 victory over Washington in Super Bowl VII, which was played in Los Angeles. The result was a 10k yellow gold ring with a one-karat diamond set in a 12mm by 10mm aquamarine. It has a unique double bevel bezel construction with 16 three-point diamonds on the inside bevel. On one shank is the raised name of the recipient over the Dolphins' logo with Shula's motto, "Winning Edge," below. The other has the Vince Lombardi trophy surrounded by "Super Bowl VII," the game score, "17-0," and "Perfect Season." The ring weighs 26 pennyweight.

Game VIII Miami Dolphins
Josten's

After the Dolphins' second consecutive Super Bowl victory, Robbie asked Josten's to create a similar, but simpler, ring. Westerlund selected two 60-point diamonds, representative of the Dolphins' two world championships, and put them in an elliptical white gold mount, which was set in a large (16mm by 14mm) aquamarine stone. On one shank are the recipient's name, his number or title, and the Dolphins' logo, which is orange and aqua enamel. On the opposite shank are the scores from Super Bowls VII and VIII, the Vince Lombardi trophy, and the inscription "Back to Back." The ring is 10k yellow gold and weighs 24 pennyweight. Miami beat Minnesota 24-7 to earn the second Super Bowl ring.

Game IX Pittsburgh Steelers
Josten's

Westerlund and Steelers president Dan Rooney worked on the ring that commemorates the first NFL championship in the club's 42-year history. Rooney selected a complicated inverted double bevel bezel with a barrel shape that transforms into a cushion antique shape at the center. A one-karat diamond was set in a 12mm. by 10mm. cushion of antique genuine black onyx. All wording and emblems on the shanks of the ring, which is 10k white gold, are incised. On one shank are the recipient's name, number or title, and the Steelers' logo. The other side has the wording "Super Bowl IX," the Vince Lombardi trophy, and scores of the Steelers' playoff games and Super Bowl win. The ring weighs 25 pennyweight.

Game X Pittsburgh Steelers
Balfour

For the Steelers' second straight world championship, which they won by beating Dallas 21-17, Rooney worked with Shorrock to create what is perhaps the most unusual of all the Super Bowl rings that have been manufactured to date. It is 14k yellow gold and features a complex cushion antique shape with dramatically raised wording. Two 50-point diamonds were set in paladium, a precious alloy of the platinum family. The paladium was sculpted to display the Vince Lombardi trophy on the face. The trophy is flanked on both sides by the diamonds. The shanks are incised in the same manner as the previous year. The ring weighs 23 pennyweight. On one side is the official seal from America's bicentennial celebration.

Game XI Oakland Raiders
Lenox Awards

The Raiders undertook an intense search for the design of their championship ring after beating Minnesota 32-14 in Super Bowl XI. Four companies submitted designs that were examined by managing general partner Al Davis, head coach John Madden, and executive assistant Al LoCasale. Lenox Awards, Inc., a division of Lenox Company, the producers of china, was chosen to make the ring. Designer Elliott Inberg's creation is extremely complex. The ring is 14k white gold, set with 27 diamonds in and around a black spinel onyx center, and weighs an average of 31 pennyweight. Included on the shanks are the Raiders' emblem, scores from the AFC championship game and the Super Bowl, and the recipient's name.

Game XII Dallas Cowboys
Josten's

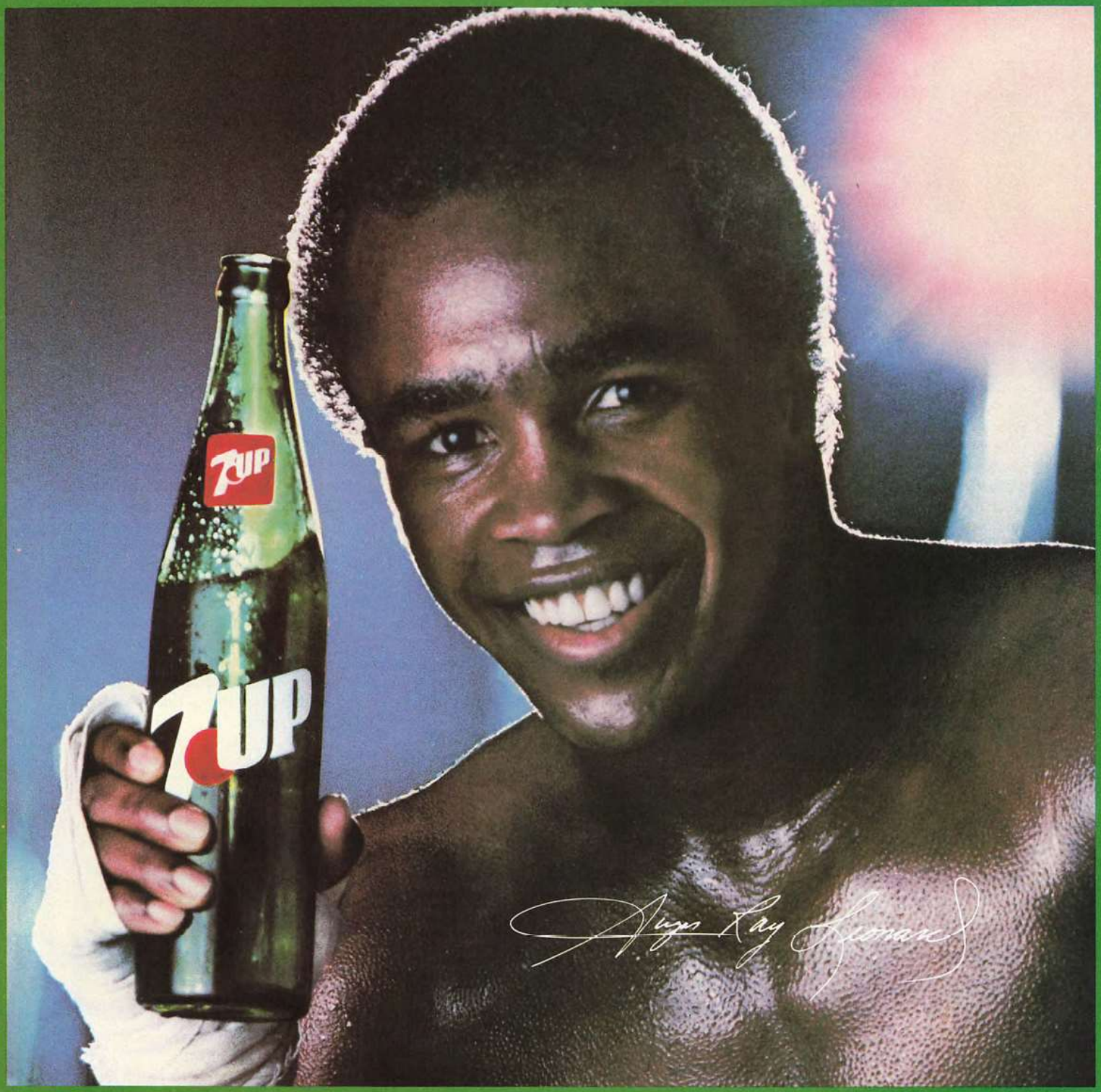
The ring features two 40-point diamonds set in two blue stars surrounded by a field of 22 diamonds. Around the ring's edge are the words "Dallas Cowboys World Champions." A diamond spaces the words, making the total diamond content two carats. One shank of the heavy 28 pennyweight ring highlights the Lombardi trophy over an outline of the Louisiana Superdome. The game score (27-10 over Denver) and Super Bowl XII logo appear under the trophy. The other shank features a Cowboys helmet, the individual player's name, and the player's jersey number centered in an outline of the state of Texas. Completing the shank design are stars commemorating the Cowboys' four Super Bowl appearances (games V, VI, X, and XII).

Game XIII Pittsburgh Steelers
Josten's

To commemorate their unprecedented third Super Bowl victory (and second over Dallas), the Steelers integrated their logo into the ring by using the three hypercycloids (star-shapes) as settings for three half-carat diamonds. Surrounding these diamonds is a field of 30 smaller diamonds, making a total of almost three carats per ring. One shank features the Super Bowl XIII logotype above a representation of the Vince Lombardi trophy rising out of the Orange Bowl (site of the game) and the Miami skyline. The game's score, 35-31, is also incised on the shank. The other shank is personalized for each player, including a unique three-quarter view of his helmet. The yellow gold ring weighs 28 pennyweight.

Game XIV Pittsburgh Steelers
Josten's

For this, Pittsburgh's record fourth Super Bowl victory, which came against the Los Angeles Rams at the Rose Bowl, the Steelers decided on a smaller 25 pennyweight ring with a more understated design. They chose a simpler design in order to highlight four half-carat diamonds. Surrounding the diamonds, the raised lettering on the top of each ring reads, "World Champions 1979, Pittsburgh." One shank of the ring features the words "Super Bowl XIV" and the game score, "31-19." The other shank has the word "Steelers" and each individual player's name and number. The yellow gold rings also feature a unique hand-Florentined finish, each ring requiring three to four hours of hand work with a special tool.



Feelin' 7UP

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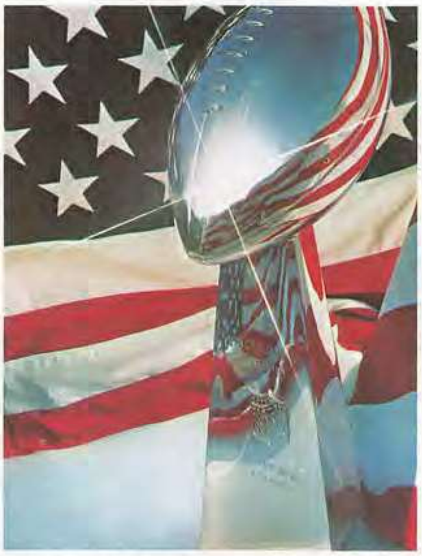
Super Bowl XV: a rowdy surprise party for the Raiders. The Eagles expected an engraved invitation all season long.

Raiders vs. Eagles

They are the Rodney Dangerfields of American cities, eternally in search of respect.

Of Oakland, Gertrude Stein once said, "There is no there there."

W. C. Fields supplied this sardonic epitaph to his tombstone: "On the whole, I'd rather be in Philadelphia."



Today, in the green glow of New Orleans's Louisiana Superdome, teams representing Oakland and Philadelphia will settle the fifteenth edition of pro football's ultimate prize, the Super Bowl.

Not that these *teams* need any respect. Quite the opposite.

The Raiders bill themselves as "Pro Football's Winningest Team," and who can argue with the numbers? Since 1963, the Raiders have compiled a 182-68-11 record, have won nine divisional titles, and have played in two Super Bowls, carrying home the Vince Lombardi trophy four years ago after thrashing Minnesota in game XI.

The Eagles' recent past is a bit more checquered. The team won the NFL championship in 1960 over Green Bay, then fell into the NFL's doghouse. The Eagles of 1961-1977 had losing records in 14 of 17 years, finishing last eight times. Dick Vermeil inherited the team in 1976; after two unsuccessful seasons, Philadelphia has made the playoffs three successive years.

Philadelphia entered the Super Bowl through the front door, champions of the NFC East and bearers of a 14-4 record. In the playoffs, the Eagles were opportunists to the ultimate, using mistakes by Minnesota and Dallas to sweep into the finals.

Oakland came in through the back door, the third non-division winner in NFL history to make the title game. The Raiders need apologize to no one, however. Not only did they oust two AFC Central powers, Houston (in the wild card round) and Cleveland, but they whipped the San Diego team that won the AFC West on a tie-breaker (both the Chargers and Raiders had had 11-5 records) in the AFC championship game.

If there is a sentimental favorite in today's matchup then it is Oakland's comeback quarterback, Jim Plunkett.

The Raiders' achievements are shared by many, however, not the least by managing general partner Al Davis and coach Tom Flores. Davis's architectural job this season—turning what was presumed to be a rebuilding year into a championship season—is a colossal feat. An astonishing 20 members of the Raiders were obtained via trades, waivers, or free agentry; 6 of Davis's 14 acquisitions this year are starters and a seventh is placekicker Chris Bahr. Flores, the gentle man who succeeded the legendary John Madden as head coach in 1979, took all the pieces and put them together.

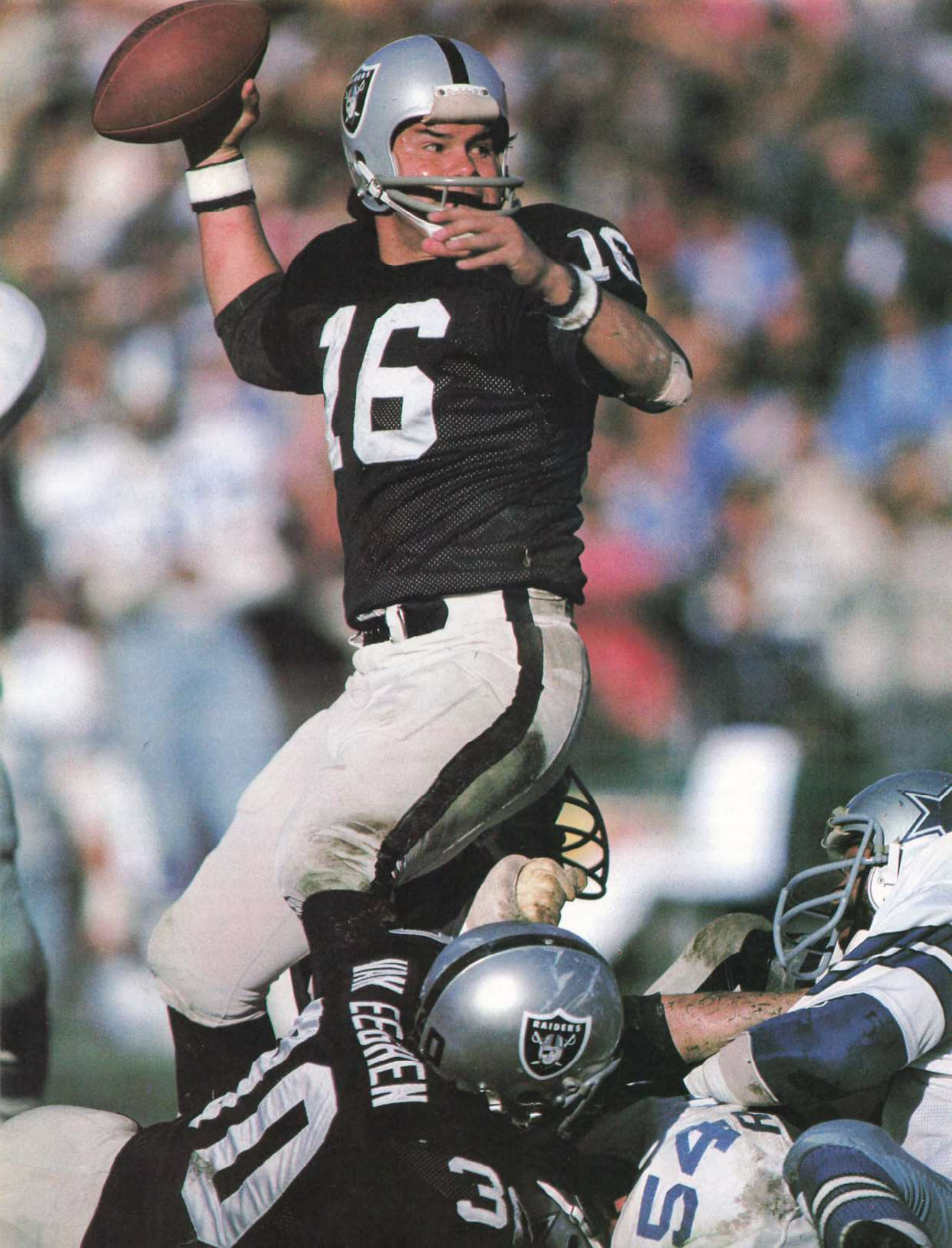
The Eagles? You could figure the Eagles in this game before the season . . . and nothing they did in the first 12 weeks changed many minds. Philadelphia was 11-1 before it fell upon hard times, losing three of its last four games (by a total of 12 points to three playoff teams).

Philadelphia fans have an almost inbred skepticism, and there were late-season pronouncements that the gung-ho, perpetually intense coaching methods of Dick Vermeil had left his team a burned-out shell of its former self. The inbred skeptics are in New Orleans today, and you will hear and see them in the Superdome.

This will not be the ouchless Super Bowl. These are two intimidators—at least on defense—and the macho tone should be seen (not to mention *felt*) early.

Facts are facts; some mean little, some mean a lot. Put these two in the latter category: Thirteen members of the Raiders have played in a previous Super Bowl. *None* of the Eagles have played in one.

That experience could be the fragile difference.


16
RAIDERS

OAKLAND RAIDERS

A year of transition and rebuilding . . . the first losing record in 16 years . . . last place in the AFC West. . . .

Predictions of gloom greeted the Oakland Raiders at the beginning of the 1980 season. They had finished 9-7 in each of the two previous years, failing to make the playoffs after six straight postseason appearances.

The "old gang" was almost gone. Only seven starters remained from the Super Bowl XI championship team just three years earlier. Twenty-five new faces had been added in the last two seasons.

Al Davis had traded wisely. He added 10 number one draft picks to the roster. Of the seven players he acquired through trades in 1980, four were starters for most of this season, and two others played regularly.

And then there was Jim Plunkett, who had thrown only 15 passes in 1979 and had not played a down in 1978. The low point of the season — a 31-17 loss at home to Kansas City when Dan Pastorini broke his leg—became the springboard for the finest season of Plunkett's 10 year career.

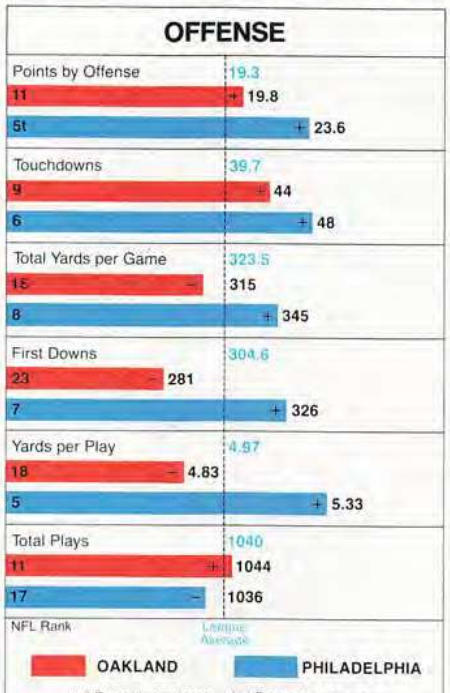
He led the Raiders to six straight victories, followed by two losses in the next three games to NFC finalists Philadelphia and Dallas, and then five consecutive victories that made Oakland only the second wild card team to advance to the Super Bowl (Dallas was the other, in 1975).

Running back Kenny King, who was acquired in the trade that sent Jack Tatum to Houston, finished runner-up to Mark van Eeghen in rushing for the Raiders with 761 yards after having gained only nine yards as an Oilers rookie in 1979.

Wide receiver Bob Chandler, who was salvaged in a deal with Buffalo, led the team with 49 receptions, including 10 touchdowns. The canny veteran, one of seven Raiders with 10 or more years' experience in the NFL, had been injured most of the previous season and did not catch a pass.

Free safety Burgess Owens had not played on a winning team since junior high school. He was dealt to the Raiders by the Jets and became a starter on a championship team. Dwayne O'Steen, traded by the Rams, took over at right cornerback. Two others acquired through trades, Odis McKinney (Giants) and Cedrick Hardman (49ers) made significant contributions in reserve roles.

Two of the remaining starters from the Raiders' Super Bowl XI team, offensive captain Gene Upshaw and linebacker Ted Hendricks, catalyzed the team in their own ways—Upshaw through the quiet confidence of a winner who is playing in his twenty-fourth postseason game today, Hendricks through a spirited series of Pro Bowl caliber performances.



Philadelphia holds an advantage in five areas.

Another starter from Oakland's last playoff team, Willie Brown, now is a Raiders coach. Brown's protege Lester Hayes had one of the greatest seasons ever by a defensive back in the NFL with 18 interceptions (including the playoffs).

Punter Ray Guy also is a link between the Raiders' Super Bowl XI team and today's club. Guy remains the epitome of consistency, with his booming drives an important factor in Oakland's success.

The Oakland organization is fond of coining an occasional slogan, a metaphor here and there, to reinforce an aura of pride. But perhaps the scions of public relations who yearly manufacture these catchwords would do well to think for a moment on a simple, homespun image. What Al Davis has quietly constructed is an unlikely but altogether logical *quilt*. Patching and mending, he's made it fit the purpose. It's the sort of cover beneath which an apparent bunch of isolated characters can gather. And dream.

Quarterback Jim Plunkett is the epitome of pluck, having reversed a downward trend in his career to lead the Raiders to an equally unlikely Super Bowl XV appearance. Plunkett (2,299 yards passing in 1980) took over for injured starter Dan Pastorini in week five.

THE 14-5 SEASON OF 1980

Sept. 7 Pastorini's debut was a success, 17 of 37 attempts for 317 yards and two touchdowns. Oakland 27, Kansas City 14.

Sept. 14 In for injured Pastorini, Plunkett tied game with last-second pass, but Raiders lost in overtime. San Diego 30, Oakland 24.

Sept. 21 "I became a veteran today," said second year running back King after rushing for 136 yards. Oakland 24, Washington 21.

Sept. 28 One bright spot for the Raiders was Hayes's 48-yard interception return for a touchdown. Buffalo 24, Oakland 7.

Oct. 5 Pastorini was lost for the season with a broken leg and knee damage. Kansas City 31, Oakland 17.

Oct. 12 Two touchdowns in an 11-second span late in the fourth quarter broke the game open. Oakland 38, San Diego 24.

Oct. 20 Plunkett threw three touchdown passes—two to Branch and one to Bradshaw—for the victory. Oakland 45, Pittsburgh 34.

Oct. 26 Plunkett and Chandler combined to produce three touchdowns; Bahr kicked four field goals. Oakland 33, Seattle 14.

Nov. 2 "Offensively we were sluggish, but our defense was sound," said Flores after the victory. Oakland 16, Miami 10.

Nov. 9 In addition to passing for 244 yards, Plunkett secured the victory with a late four-yard run. Oakland 28, Cincinnati 17.

Nov. 17 Bahr's 28-yard field goal in the final minute brought the Raiders from behind. Oakland 19, Seattle 17.

Nov. 23 The eight sacks suffered by Plunkett made the difference in a tight defensive game. Philadelphia 10, Oakland 7.

Dec. 1 A third-quarter eight-yard bootleg by Plunkett was the deciding score on Monday night. Oakland 9, Denver 3.

Dec. 7 "We had opportunities to score at the end, but just didn't," said Plunkett after the loss. Dallas 19, Oakland 13.

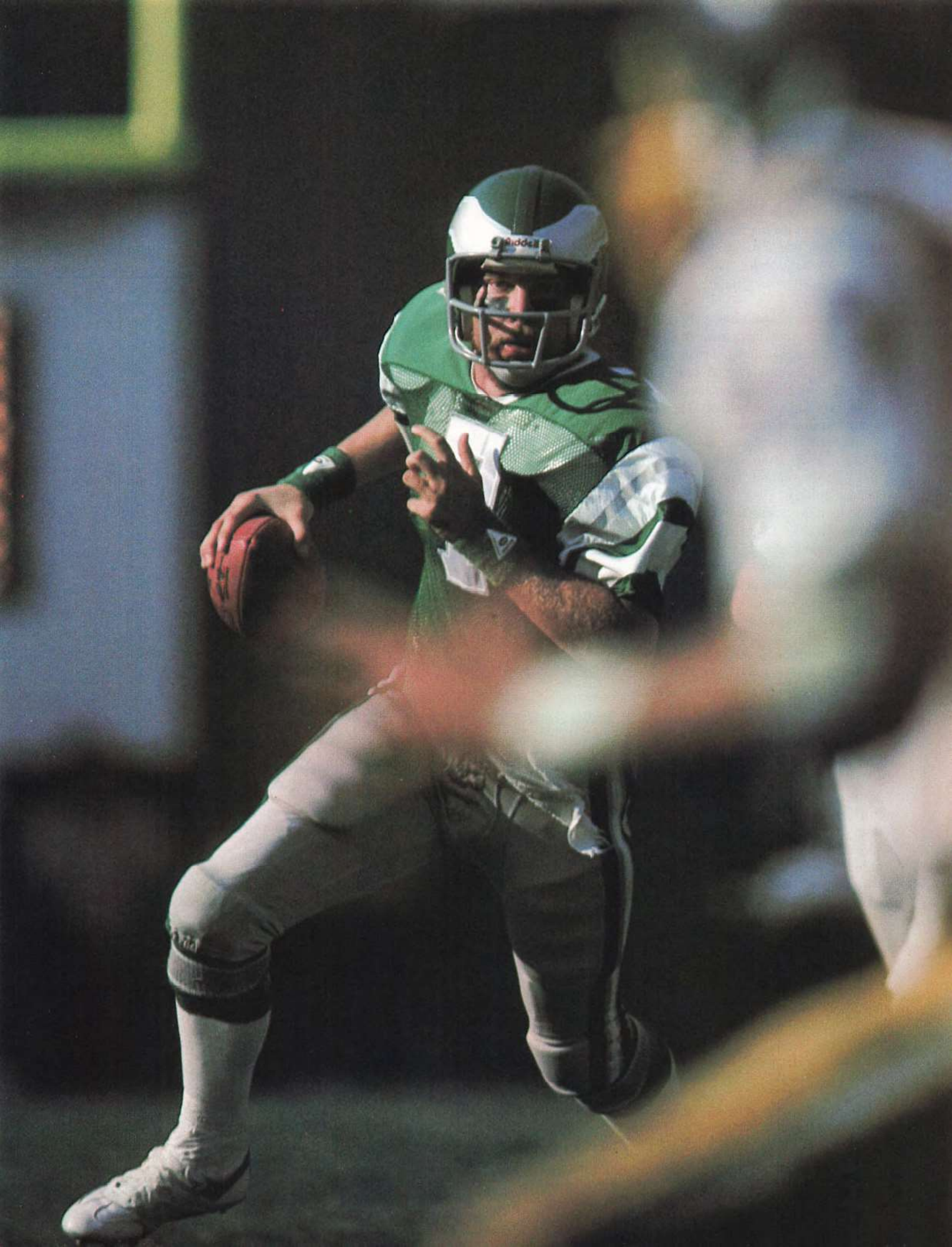
Dec. 14 O'Steen's interception on the game's final play preserved the Raiders' victory. Oakland 24, Denver 21.

Dec. 21 "They hung tough week after week," said Flores of his team as the Raiders made the playoffs. Oakland 33, N.Y. Giants 17.

Dec. 28 The defense, led by Hayes and Hendricks, paced the wild card game victory. Oakland 27, Houston 7.

Jan. 4 Van Eeghen's two one-yard touchdowns and a tight defense keyed the victory in zero-degree weather. Oakland 14, Cleveland 12.

Jan. 11 Plunkett passed for two touchdowns and ran for another and the Raiders held on. Oakland 34, San Diego 27.



PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Consistency. Intensity. Emotion. Patience. These are the terms that best describe the Philadelphia Eagles since Dick Vermeil took over as head coach prior to the 1976 season. Sixteen years earlier, the Eagles had been NFL champions. But recapturing those years of former greatness seemed like an unattainable dream as Vermeil's Eagles went 4-10 in 1976 and 5-9 in 1977.

The building continued, fueled by the hard work for which Vermeil is famous, perhaps even infamous. Then came the breakthrough. In 1978, the Eagles were 9-7, good enough for an NFC wild card playoff berth. They lost 14-13 to upstart Atlanta, but it was as if a clock had started ticking—or a bomb. It was just a matter of time.

Vermeil went back to work, patiently and again with intensity. Taking advantage of the team's first complete draft (Philadelphia had not had a first round draft pick since 1973); the improvement of quarterback Ron Jaworski, acquired from Los Angeles in 1977; and the 1,000-yard running of Wilbert Montgomery, Vermeil took the team back to the playoffs as a wild card team again in 1979. There they took the next step. The Eagles beat the Bears 27-17 and advanced to the divisional playoffs, where they lost to Tampa Bay 24-17. Patience. Back to the drawing board—and the drafting table.

This season, there was no doubt the Eagles had arrived. They won 11 of their first 12 games, and even perennial NFC Eastern Division champion Dallas had to hear the clock ticking. That twelfth game, Philadelphia's eighth victory in a row, is especially significant because it came against the same Oakland Raiders the Eagles face today. In a season of point-a-minute, bombs-away, offensive football, these two teams played an old fashioned defensive battle royal.

At the end of the first half the score was 0-0. The edge, if any, belonged statistically to the Raiders, 111 total yards to the Eagles' 70, though it was somewhat tempered by Philadelphia's six sacks of Oakland quarterback Jim Plunkett. The intensity of the game didn't diminish after the half. For the next 15 minutes the only scoring either team could muster was a 51-yard field goal blasted into orbit by Philadelphia's barefoot kicker Tony Franklin.

Then, two minutes into the fourth quarter, the Raiders broke the game open. Plunkett hit wide receiver Cliff Branch with an 86-yard touchdown bomb to give Oakland a 7-3 lead. The game went back and forth, defense to defense, until, with 2:56 remaining, Wilbert Montgomery swept the left side for three yards and dived into the end zone for the Eagles' winning touchdown.

The Eagles have one of the NFL's best defenses.

Despite losing three of its last four games, Philadelphia still won the division title over Dallas on a tiebreaker. In the playoffs, the Eagles ousted first the Vikings, then the arch-rival Cowboys to win the NFC championship.

The intensity of Vermeil—the coach who seemingly works nonstop, sleeps in his office, and runs unheard-of three-hour practices—is reflected in every aspect of his team's play. Battlers such as Jaworski, linebacker Bill Bergey, running back-kick returner Louie Giammona, all-purpose John Sciarra, defensive end Claude Humphrey, tight end Keith Krepfle, and running back Leroy Harris, while not overpowering in the scouting reports, have meshed into a team of overachievers. Playing sometimes on raw emotion and desire more than talent, the Eagles have flown to New Orleans. They are one victory away from coming full circle and recreating the achievement of the legendary team they most resemble, a team that surprised Green Bay to win the championship, that didn't have championship caliber personnel, but *did* win and won with consistency—the 1960 Philadelphia Eagles.

Quarterback Ron Jaworski typifies the work ethic that has become the Eagles' driving force under head coach Dick Vermeil. Once a struggling backup quarterback with Los Angeles, Jaworski elevated himself to the position of the NFC's pass-rating leader for 1980.

THE 14-4 SEASON OF 1980

Sept. 7 Jaworski connected on 18 of 29 passes for 281 yards and three touchdowns. Philadelphia 27, Denver 6.

Sept. 14 Montgomery (169 rushing) and Jaworski (234 passing) paced a 529-yard attack. Philadelphia 42, Minnesota 7.

Sept. 22 For the second time in three games the defense didn't yield a touchdown. Philadelphia 35, N.Y. Giants 3.

Sept. 28 The defense gave up 195 yards rushing, and Jaworski was intercepted three times. St. Louis 24, Philadelphia 14.

Oct. 5 Behind 7-0, Jaworski hit Harris on a 51-yard touchdown pass to ignite the Eagles. Philadelphia 24, Washington 14.

Oct. 12 With Montgomery sidelined, Giammona scored twice as the Eagles rallied. Philadelphia 31, N.Y. Giants 16.

Oct. 19 Johnson's interception set up the decisive 20-yard scoring drive. Philadelphia 17, Dallas 10.

Oct. 26 Giammona's pass to Krepfle gave Franklin a second chance at the winning field goal. Philadelphia 17, Chicago 14.

Nov. 2 Jaworski's touchdown pass to Campfield and Franklin's field goal keyed a late rally. Philadelphia 27, Seattle 20.

Nov. 9 Carmichael had three touchdown catches as Jaworski passed for 323 yards. Philadelphia 34, New Orleans 21.

Nov. 16 Jaworski threw touchdowns to Krepfle and Spagnola on the Eagles' first two possessions. Philadelphia 24, Washington 0.

Nov. 23 The defense contributed eight sacks, and the Eagles outlasted the Raiders. Philadelphia 10, Oakland 7.

Nov. 30 Behind 19-0, the Eagles closed the gap on Montgomery's two touchdowns. San Diego 22, Philadelphia 21.

Dec. 7 A penalty negated Blackmore's interception and gave the Falcons a final chance. Atlanta 20, Philadelphia 17.

Dec. 14 Robinson suggested the need for a "big play" and got it—a fumble recovery to set up a score. Philadelphia 17, St. Louis 3.

Dec 21 The Eagles' rally from a 35-10 deficit failed, but they still won the NFC East. Dallas 35, Philadelphia 27.

Jan. 3 The Eagles spotted the Vikings 14 points, but came back with defense and Jaworski's passing. Philadelphia 31, Minnesota 16.

Jan. 11 In near-zero weather, Montgomery's 194 yards rushing paced the victory. Philadelphia 20, Dallas 7.

For a while there, it looked as though the Raiders would be indelibly stamped with the label "left-handed team" when it came to running the ball. The play of left guard Gene Upshaw and left tackle Art Shell, perennial all-pro selections during the seventies, still speaks of authority, but neither man would deny that time has worked its usual abrasive effects on his skills (Upshaw is 35, Shell 34).

The Raiders' willingness to run right stems in part from the liberalization of the blocking rules in recent years. Increased legal use of hands makes better blockers of both right guard Mickey Marvin and right tackle Henry Lawrence. Lawrence always has been a favorite of managing general partner Al Davis. Lawrence will have his hands full today with Eagles tackle Dennis Harrison. Tight end Raymond Chester will help Lawrence cope with outside linebacker John Bunting.

Oakland's all-purpose substitute in the offensive line is Steve Sylvester. Although he's marginal at tackle, his blocking and center snaps are more than adequate. Lindsey Mason, another of Davis's favorites, sees spot duty at guard and tackle but is inexperienced.

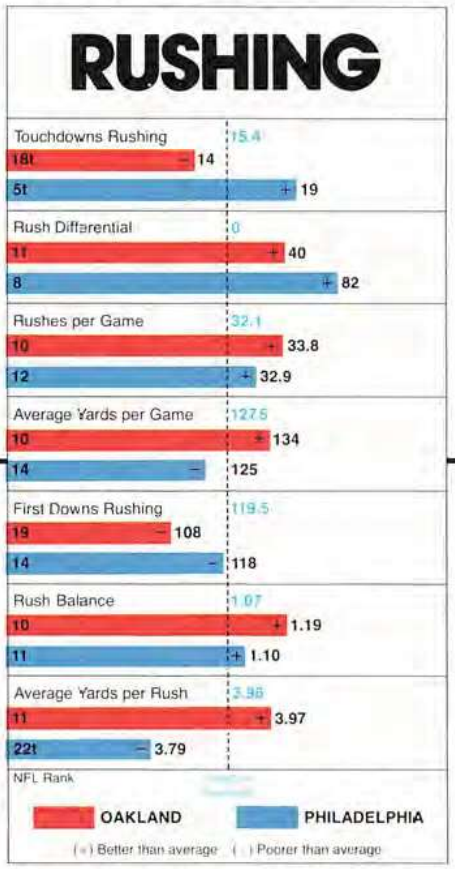
Starting center Dave Dalby has been compared favorably with Los Angeles's Rich Saul for steadiness and technique. He should be able to handle nose tackle Charlie Johnson with a device known as a "scoop block," a short, curving motion on Johnson's left side.

Running back Mark van Eeghen is the lead man in the Oakland running attack. The Raiders showed a willingness to take the ball into the middle of San Diego's defensive line, and there's reason to believe they'll probe the area around Bergey, Johnson, and left inside linebacker Frank LeMaster. Off-tackle, it's the same story. Van Eeghen is the man to look for in key short yardage situations.

The acquisition of running back Kenny King from Houston in the offseason has been heralded—and proven—as the linchpin that had been missing in Oakland's ground game. The only question mark at the moment is his injured ankle, a factor that matters more on the marble-hard surface of the Superdome than, say, the natural turf in San Diego or Oakland. King moved well enough in the AFC title game, and, barring reinjury, he should have benefited from the two-week hiatus leading to Super Bowl XV.

After King comes Arthur Whittington, whose output and time of service as part of the running game defer to his use as a receiver and utility man. And on this day, look for him to run back kickoffs as well. He averaged 18.7 yards this season.

Quarterback Jim Plunkett, never a breakaway threat, can run beyond scrimmage, if necessary. Reserve running back Derrick Jensen also can pick up necessary yardage.



The rushing games: a statistical standoff.

RUSHING	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
van Eeghen	222	838	3.8	34	5
King	172	761	4.4	89	4
Whittington	91	299	3.3	42	3
Plunkett	28	141	5.0	17	2
Guy	3	38	12.7	24	0
Jensen	14	30	2.1	4	0
Pastorini	4	24	6.0	10	0
Matthews	5	11	2.2	5	0
Wilson	1	3	3.0	3	0
Branch	1	1	1.0	1	0

It isn't completely fair to say that the success of the Philadelphia running game rests squarely on the legs of Wilbert Montgomery. But it's not far from the truth. Montgomery was the Eagles' leading rusher (778 yards) *and* receiver (50 catches) in 1980, despite a number of injuries that kept him from his third consecutive 1,000-yard season. He broke open the NFC championship game against Dallas in the early going with a 42-yard touchdown run and went on to gain 194 yards—the first rusher to gain more than 100 yards on the Cowboys in the playoffs. Montgomery finished two yards short of former Eagles great Steve Van Buren's NFC championship game record of 196, set in 1949. At 5 feet 10 inches, 195 pounds, Montgomery is durable, fast, and strong, able to muscle his way inside or swing outside and make the quick cut upfield. He is most dangerous as a cutback runner coming out of the I-formation or as a short yardage receiver, particularly when he gets behind the blocking of tight end Keith Krepfle and right guard Woody Peoples, who can be devastating in the open field.

Teamed with Montgomery in the backfield is Leroy Harris, who joined the Eagles just prior to the 1979 season after two years with Miami. Like Montgomery, Harris also had a big game two weeks ago against Dallas, gaining 60 yards on 10 carries and scoring a touchdown. Harris's powerful, stocky build (5 feet 9 inches, 230 pounds) makes him Philadelphia's choice for picking up the tough inside yardage.

Backing up Montgomery and Harris, and rotating into the backfield situationally, is the versatile Louie Giammona. A 5 foot 9 inch, 180 pounder, Giammona plays with desire and, sometimes, reckless abandon.

Another clutch performer with a penchant for turning in big plays is Billy Campfield. He was Philadelphia's fifth best rusher, but his real value was as a third down pass receiver. Campfield, a third year back, had 26 catches in 1980.

A runner who could surprise the Raiders is rookie Perry Harrington, a 1980 second round draft choice from Jackson State. Harrington, who was used sparingly but effectively this season, is cut from the same mold as Montgomery. Harrington is quick (4.4 speed in the 40), compact (5 feet 11 inches, 210 pounds), and hard-running.

The Eagles' offensive line is a solid unit anchored by right tackle Jerry Sisemore and center Guy Morriss. Look for Philadelphia to favor running to the right. Morriss also will help talented young left guard Petey Perot and tackle Stan Walters, who was hurt in the Dallas game.

RUSHING	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Montgomery	193	778	4.0	72	8
Giammona	97	361	3.7	44	4
Harris	104	341	3.3	22	3
Harrington	32	166	5.2	19	1
Campfield	44	120	2.7	9	1
Jaworski	27	95	3.5	19	1
Hogan	12	44	3.7	12	1
Smith	5	33	6.6	16	0
LeMaster	2	21	10.5	11	0
Fitzkee	1	15	15.0	15	0
Sciarra	3	11	3.7	9	0
Dixon	2	8	4.0	5	0
Culbreath	1	3	3.0	3	0
Krepfle	1	2	2.0	2	0
Pisarcik	3	−3	−1.0	0	0

King has power and speed.

Whittington is a dangerous outside runner.

Van Eeghen was rushing leader for fifth year.

Montgomery led Eagles in rushing, receiving.

Giammona is Philadelphia's Mr. Versatility.

Harris gets the tough inside yardage.

It's a piece of hindsight worth noting for its irony. The broken leg suffered by newly acquired starting quarterback Dan Pastorini in week five of the 1980 season was the turning point in the Raiders' drive into the Super Bowl.

Jim Plunkett, whose career had resided in the NFL's lost and found department until the Raiders signed him as a free agent in 1978 after San Francisco let him go, took over for Pastorini and turned out to be almost a total protege of his head coach, former quarterback Tom Flores. There's more than a casual affinity between the styles of the two men, a bond that begins with their demeanor. Watch Flores on the sidelines. Watch Plunkett everywhere. Both have the evenness of temperament that fits well in a championship setting.

Not that the Oakland passing attack is without explosiveness. The Raiders always are looking for a way to spring Cliff Branch, whose speed is enhanced by the technique known to all good sprinters—the ability to change gears in full stride.

For craft, the Raiders turn to Bob Chandler. The former Buffalo wide receiver joined the club this season and filled the role previously played by Fred Biletnikoff. Chandler is the consummate "posession receiver," whose ability to explore the seams of a zone defense poses real problems for the Eagles.

The Raiders like to line up with Chandler split wide to either side and Branch in the slot between Chandler and the tackle. From that formation, the idea of going to the *opposite* side has its appeal. There, Oakland lines up with tight end Raymond Chester and preferably Arthur Whittington at running back. Whittington has the speed and hands to complete the big play, and the Raiders probably will run him on a pattern against linebacker John Bunting more often than they will against Jerry Robinson, given Robinson's superior speed.

Kenny King also is reliable in the role of a receiver out of the backfield. With King lining up left, watch Eagles right inside linebacker Frank LeMaster for an indication of where King might go in a passing situation.

Oakland doesn't use a lot of motion, but when it does the result usually is to send Branch toward the slot and eject him from there with a running start. Wide receiver Morris Bradshaw may make a guest appearance because of his ability to fly on the Superdome rug.

Another thing about Plunkett: He has the sense to change velocity on the ball. Never mind that awkward palming grip he uses. Timing is his forte.

Jaworski has a statistical edge over Plunkett.

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TDs	Int.	Rating
Plunkett	320	165	2,299	51.6	18	16	72.3
Pastorini	130	66	932	50.8	5	8	61.4
Wilson	5	3	31	60.0	0	0	—
Guy	1	1	32	100.0	0	0	—

RECEIVING	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Chandler	49	786	16.0	56	10
Branch	44	858	19.5	86	7
van Eeghen	29	259	8.9	37	0
Chester	28	366	13.1	47	4
King	22	145	6.6	18	0
Whittington	19	205	10.8	55	0
Jensen	7	87	12.4	32	0
Bradshaw	6	132	22.0	45	1
Ramsey	5	117	23.4	58	0
Matthews	3	33	11.0	20	0
Martini	1	36	36.0	36	0

Ron Jaworski has matured as a quarterback. It shows in the way he carries himself on the field, just as it showed in the way he led an Eagles team that many considered less than talent-rich to the Super Bowl. It also shows in his number one quarterback rating in the NFC (90.9), just one percentage point behind league-leading Brian Sipe of Cleveland.

Jaworski has two major strengths: the powerful passing arm that earned him his "Polish Rifle" nickname; and his remarkable control (only 12 interceptions all season for an enviable 2.7 interception percentage). When Jaworski does load up and fire away, he's deadly, as reflected in his 27 touchdown passes in 1980 and his pass completion rate of 57 percent (257 of 451 for 3,529 yards).

A good part of the credit for Jaworski's success belongs to the Eagles' offensive line, which allowed only 32 sacks this season. Eleven of those sacks came in late-season losses to San Diego and Atlanta. A key factor in today's game is how well Jerry Sisemore, Stan Walters, Woody Peoples, Petey Perot, and particularly Guy Morriss, an exceptional pass blocker, pick up the Oakland rush, especially freelancing linebacker Ted Hendricks.

If the Eagles have an advantage over opposing secondaries, it is in height, thanks to 6 foot 8 inch wide receiver Harold Carmichael. With 48 receptions, 9 for touchdowns, and 815 yards (a 17-yard average), Carmichael is a consistent scoring threat on long bombs and timed end zone corner routes. Jaworski also likes to go to him on quick first down slip screens, in which Carmichael goes out a few steps, then comes back behind the line of scrimmage for the ball.

A big question mark in the Philadelphia passing game is wide receiver Charles Smith, who sat out the playoffs with a broken jaw suffered in the regular season finale against the Cowboys. Smith led the Eagles with 825 yards receiving, and his 17.6-yard average was the highest among the team's leading receivers. Of all the Eagles' receivers, Smith has the speed to beat the Oakland man-to-man coverage deep. Another speedy, though still somewhat untested, receiver is Rodney Parker, who made some timely catches in the NFC championship game against the Cowboys.

The Eagles have two outstanding tight ends in Keith Krepfle and John Spagnola, both talented blockers as well as receivers. Spagnola is very quick, while Krepfle, though not fast, still gets deep time and again to make pressure catches.

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	TDs	Int.	Rating
Jaworski	451	257	3,529	57.0	27	12	90.9
Pisarcik	22	15	187	68.2	0	0	—
Giammona	3	3	55	100.0	1	0	—
Montgomery	1	0	0	00.0	0	0	—

RECEIVING	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Montgomery	50	407	8.1	31	2
Carmichael	48	815	17.0	56	9
Smith	47	825	17.6	46	3
Krepfle	30	450	15.0	27	4
Campfield	26	275	10.6	50	2
Spagnola	18	193	10.7	20	3
Giammona	17	178	10.5	30	1
Harris	15	207	13.8	51	1
Parker	9	148	16.4	30	1
Fitzkee	6	169	28.2	49	2
Henry	4	68	17.0	22	0
Harrington	3	24	8.0	17	0
Gilbert	1	7	7.0	7	0
Dixon	1	5	5.0	5	0

Bomb threat Branch has deceptive speed.

Tight end Chester: sure hands and strength.

Chandler was Oakland's leading receiver.

Carmichael: a 6 foot 8 inch moving target.

In the clutch, the Eagles go to Krepfle.

Smith was Eagles' receiving yardage leader.

Jim Plunkett wasn't the only remarkable comeback story for the Raiders this year. The entire rushing defense made a profound turnaround as well.

In 1979, Oakland finished twentieth in the NFL, allowing 148.4 yards rushing per game. In 1980, the Raiders climbed to fifth, giving up just 107.8 yards in each contest. Raiders opponents gained only 3.45 yards a carry this season, lowest in the league.

The radical improvement against the run was one of the reasons that 1980 was a tale of two seasons for the Raiders' defense. In the first seven games, Oakland surrendered 25.4 points a game. In the final nine games, Oakland's foes scored just 14.2 points an outing. The Raiders have allowed more than two touchdowns only twice in their last 12 games.

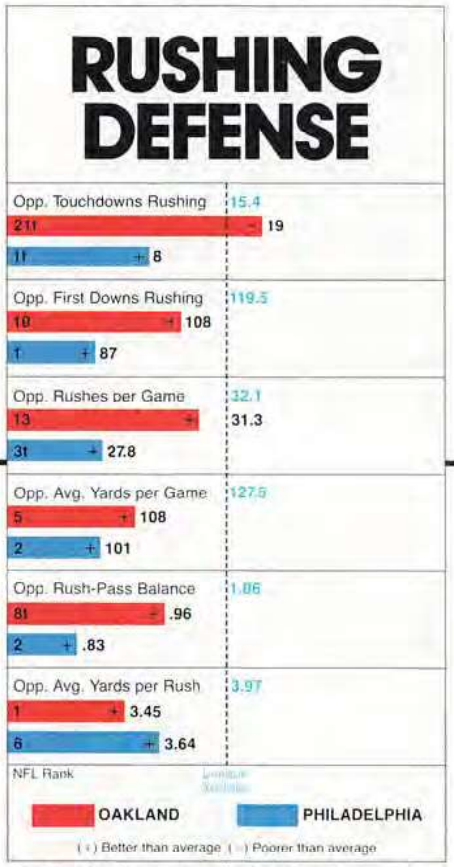
Oakland didn't change its defensive personnel from 1979 so much as it simplified the alignments and gave left outside linebacker Ted Hendricks as much flexibility as he wanted. Hendricks, a 12 year veteran who has played in three previous Super Bowls (III, V, and XI), lines up and blitzes from various spots and is particularly adept at shedding blockers on running plays.

"I've never seen him taken out of a play," says strong safety Mike Davis, the Raiders' most effective defensive back on run support.

"He's made my job a whole lot easier. If a team comes running at us, Ted demolishes the first guy and takes on the second and third. There's no one left to block me, and I have a free path to the ball carrier."

The rest of the Raiders' linebackers shut off the run almost as well as Hendricks. Left inside man Matt Millen, who was a defensive tackle at Penn State, is the biggest linebacker in the league at 260 pounds and was named to the NFL all-rookie team.

At right inside linebacker, free agent



The Eagles have excelled against the rush.

obtained from Cincinnati in 1974, is the defensive leader. Knee surgery last season took its toll on Bergey's speed, but he remains a fortress against the run.

The exceptional athlete in the linebacking corps is Robinson, who holds down the right outside spot. He played for Vermeil when the two were at UCLA and became the Eagles' first round draft pick in 1979.

The linebackers play behind an imposing and quick front three of left end Dennis Harrison (6 feet 8 inches, 275 pounds), nose tackle Charlie Johnson (6-3, 262), and right end Carl Hairston (6-3, 260).

The Eagles' secondary consists of cornerbacks Roynell Young and Herman Edwards and safeties Randy Logan and Brenard Wilson. It is a group mixed with youth and experience. Wilson is in his second year, Young is a rookie; Logan is an eight year veteran, Edwards a four year man.

It's an NFL axiom that teams have to first establish the running game. That will be a challenge for the Raiders' offensive line, which has a total of 47 years' experience from tackle to tackle. Hairston will be matched against 280 pound Art Shell. Harrison will face 270 pound Henry Lawrence. Johnson will battle center Dave Dalby, who at 250 pounds is the lightest of the Raiders' starting offensive lineman.

In the NFC championship game, Dallas had success attacking Philadelphia's defense with cutback plays out of the I-formation.

The challenge for the Eagles is to control the line of scrimmage, which will allow them to limit the effectiveness of van Eeghen, a power runner inside, and King and Arthur Whittington, who have the quickness to get outside for big gains. The Eagles have stopped the Raiders' ground game once already this season. Their ability to do it a second time may be the key to victory.

Bob Nelson, who formerly played with Buffalo, is extremely strong and intelligent. Outside man Rod Martin weighs just 210 pounds but tackles as hard as anyone on the squad. Randy McClanahan and Jeff Barnes are talented substitutes and special teamers.

The defensive line relies on quickness and aggressiveness to stop the rush. Reggie Kinlaw is small for a middle guard at 240 pounds, but he is strong and mobile for his size. Defensive ends John Matuszak and Dave Browning are very active competitors.

Oakland will vary its fronts and stunts for different offensive formations. In its 10-7 loss at Philadelphia during the regular season, the Raiders held the Eagles to only six first downs rushing.

One of the adjustments Oakland might make to stop Wilbert Montgomery out of the I-formation would be to offset its defensive line. Browning and Kinlaw shift their points of attack, and Martin moves up to the line on the Eagles' weak side. This strategy is designed to create blocking problems for Philadelphia's offensive line and to prevent Montgomery from cutting back for the long gain the way he did on his 42-yard touchdown against Dallas in the NFC championship game two weeks ago.

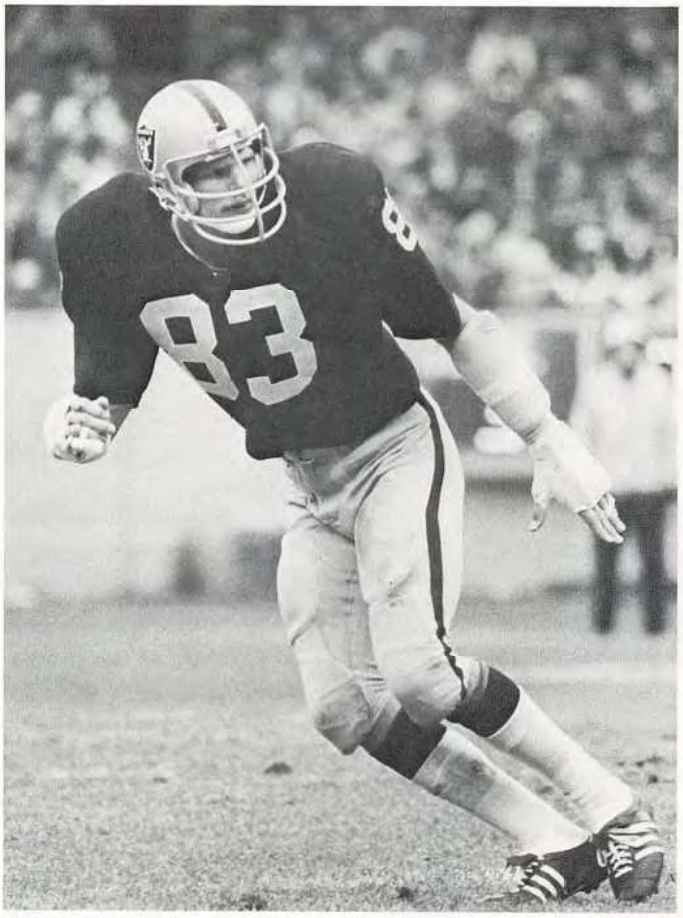
When Philadelphia beat Oakland last November 23, the Raiders' running game was held to 100 net yards on 28 carries. Mark van Eeghen and Kenny King combined to gain just 65 yards.

"The Eagles' defense won the game," Raiders coach Tom Flores said of the 10-7 loss. "We couldn't get our running game going . . . we couldn't score."

The Raiders' meager statistics were typical of the Eagles' defensive efforts during the regular season. For instance, Philadelphia ranked first in the NFL in fewest points allowed (222) and fewest touchdowns allowed (26), second in total defense (277.7 yards a game) and rushing defense (101.1 yards), and fifth against the pass (176.6 yards). Only two players—William Andrews of Atlanta and Ottis Anderson of St. Louis—were able to rush for 100 yards against Philadelphia.

The key to any 3-4 alignment is the play of the linebackers. The Eagles' unit, John Bunting and Bill Bergey on the left and Frank LeMaster and Jerry Robinson on the right, is one of the NFL's best. They provide sideline-to-sideline coverage, read plays extremely well, and are quick to fill gaps on runs.

Bergey, a 12 year veteran who was



Pro Bowl linebacker Hendricks is at the height of his career.

Raiders' mobile, physical linebackers: fifth against the run.

Bergey is the leader of the NFC's number two-rated defense.

Hairston is as adept at sacks as running down ball carriers.

Oakland's nickname fits its pass defense perfectly. The Raiders led the NFL in air piracy with 35 interceptions, tying a club record, and stole 7 more passes in three playoff games.

Left cornerback Lester Hayes, who will start for the AFC in the Pro Bowl, picked off 13 interceptions during the regular season, 1 short of Dick (Night Train) Lane's NFL record. He also had four other interceptions nullified by penalties. The remarkable fourth year player from Texas A&M added five more in the playoffs.

Hayes, who covers himself with stickum so that his hands and arms are like fly paper, will need a double dose against the Eagles, who tied for the league low by throwing just 12 interceptions in 16 games.

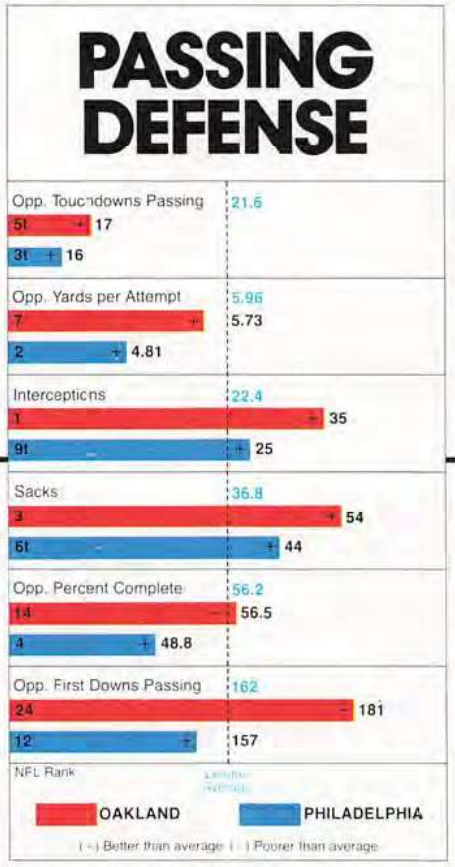
Ten other players had at least one interception for Oakland's opportunistic defense, which led the NFL with 52 takeaways and accounted for four touchdowns in the regular season.

The swarming, gambling style of Oakland's 3-4 defense is epitomized by left outside linebacker Ted Hendricks, who had one of the best seasons of his 12 year career and was named to the AFC Pro Bowl squad for the fifth time.

Allowed to freelance much more this year, Hendricks contributed nine sacks, three interceptions, and two blocked kicks.

Hendricks blitzes when he pleases, which is most of the time. He often will roam to his right, then dart through the middle between the center and left guard. When the 6 foot 7 inch Hendricks charges straight ahead with left defensive end John Matuszak, who is 6 feet 8 inches, Eagles quarterback Ron Jaworski might think he's playing in the NBA.

The Raiders sacked Houston seven times in the wild card game, six of them coming from the left side. Hayes and strong safety Mike Davis each got to Ken



Hayes's presence gives plus to Raiders.

Stabler twice, while Hendricks, Willie Jones, and Dave Browning each had one.

The Raiders finished third in the NFL with 54 sacks. They apply the greatest pressure when utilizing a four-man front with Jones, one of pro football's most effective designated pass rushers, at left end, Matuszak at left tackle, Browning at right tackle, and 11 year veteran Cedrick Hardman at right end.

Oakland's frequent blitzing creates a lot of man-to-man coverage for the secondary. Besides Hayes and Davis, the rest of the secondary came to the Raiders by trades, free safety Burgess Owens from the Jets and right cornerback Dwayne O'Steen from the Rams.

The Raiders substitute for their inside linebackers in passing situations, with Odis McKinney replacing Matt Millen in the "nickel" and Monte Jackson coming in for Bob Nelson in the "dime."

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Hayes	13	273	21.0	62	1
M. Davis	3	88	29.3	49	0
Owens	3	59	19.7	58	1
McKinney	3	22	7.3	22	0
Hendricks	3	10	3.3	5	0
O'Steen	3	10	3.3	14	0
Millen	2	17	8.5	9	0
Martin	2	15	7.5	15	0
McClanahan	1	7	7.0	7	0
Jackson	1	0	0.0	0	0
Nelson	1	0	0.0	0	0

In February 1979, Philadelphia made a move that, in retrospect, may have gone a long way toward putting them in Super Bowl XV. The Eagles persuaded Claude Humphrey to abandon thoughts of retirement and obtained him from Atlanta for a pair of fourth round draft choices (one in 1979, one in 1980).

Dick Vermeil has built his club around a solid defense. Humphrey is the inspirational foundation. He gives the Eagles experience (13 years, more than any player on the team) and model intensity.

Humphrey does not play regularly. It's an age of specialization in the NFL and Humphrey is a specialist, the Eagles' designated pass rusher from the left end spot in the 4-3 alignment. Despite seeing part-time duty, Humphrey collected a team-high 14½ quarterback sacks (out of a total of 44) during the regular season. In the November 23 matchup against the Raiders, which Philadelphia won 10-7, Humphrey led an assault on Jim Plunkett that saw the Oakland quarterback go down eight times for 62 yards in losses.

In passing situations Philadelphia goes to a 4-3 alignment, with Humphrey and Carl Hairston at ends, and Dennis Harrison and Ken Clarke at tackles. The linebackers usually are Reggie Wilkes, Frank LeMaster, and Jerry Robinson (Bill Bergey and John Bunting usually are removed in passing situations). In the secondary are cornerbacks Roynell Young and Herman Edwards and safeties Randy Logan and Brenard Wilson, who led the team with six interceptions.

The Eagles' pass defense is in line with the philosophy Vermeil and defensive coordinator Marion Campbell have developed. They play consistently and conservatively. "We're not a blitzing team," says Bunting. "Blitzing isn't sound defense. We play the run very tough and then we go into basic coverages."

Philadelphia disdains the blitz because it doesn't want to force its secondary into man-for-man coverage. The Eagles favor zones, especially strongside rotations, and a nickel defense. The front four will stunt in an attempt to confuse a Raiders offensive line that allowed 47 sacks during the regular season.

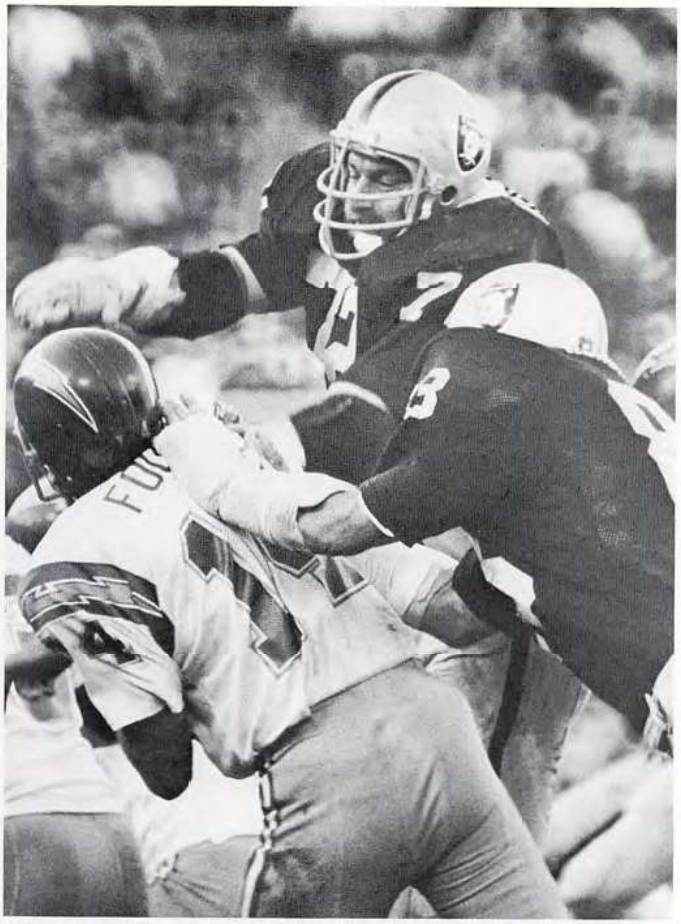
The Eagles will have to contain Cliff Branch, who burned Philadelphia for four catches and 125 yards (including an 86-yard touchdown) in November.

Backs running pass routes, especially Kenny King and Arthur Whittington, will be the responsibility of linebackers Robinson and LeMaster. Logan will have the responsibility of covering tight end Raymond Chester.

The Eagles ranked fifth in the NFL and third in the NFC in passing yardage allowed (176.6). Sixteen of the 26 touchdowns scored against Philadelphia during the regular season were on passes.

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Wilson	6	79	13.2	41	0
Young	4	27	6.8	26	0
Edwards	3	12	4.0	9	0
Johnson	3	9	3.0	9	0
Robinson	2	13	6.5	13	0
Blackmore	2	0	0.0	0	0
Logan	1	16	16.0	16	0
Bergey	1	7	7.0	7	0
LeMaster	1	7	7.0	7	0
Hairston	1	0	0.0	0	0
Wilkes	1	0	0.0	0	0

Hayes led NFL with 13 interceptions, one short of all-time record.



Matuszak led Raiders' potent situational three-man pass rush.

Edwards helped Eagles gain 25 regular season interceptions.

Humphrey, a fierce pass rusher, led the team with 14½ sacks.

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GENERAL FOODS

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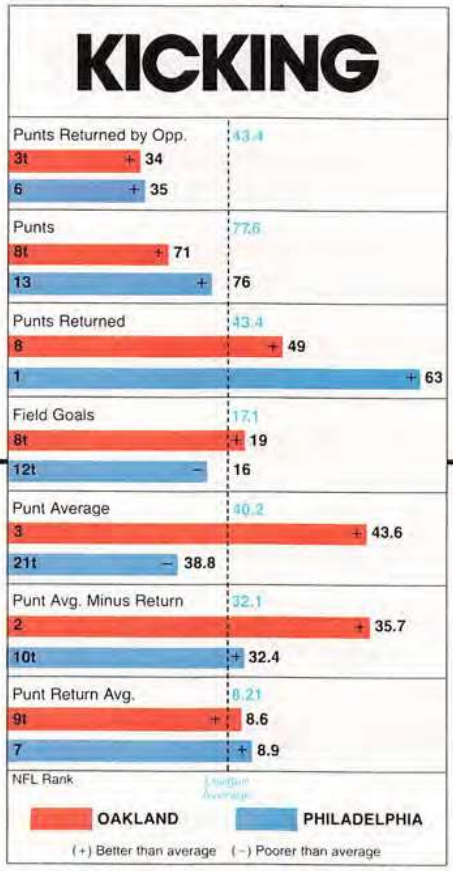
When Oakland made punter Ray Guy its first choice in the 1973 draft, many pro football experts claimed you shouldn't waste a number one pick on a punter or kicker.

But Oakland has had the last laugh—and then some. Guy has been the premier punter in the National Football League for the past eight seasons. In 1980, he was the second-rated punter in the AFC with an average of 43.6 yards a punt and a net average of 35.9 yards. Guy had no punts blocked and put 18 inside opponents' 20 yard lines. A multi-talented athlete, Guy also will run or pass from punt formation.

"He's the best," says Steve Ortmayer, who coaches the Raiders' special teams. "There never has been a punter in the game as good as Ray Guy." Ortmayer should know; he once coached former Kansas City all-time great punter Jerrel Wilson.

The Raiders' placekicking duties are handled by Chris Bahr, the former Cincinnati Bengal who was picked up as a free agent before the regular season began. Bahr finished fourth in scoring in the AFC with 98 points. He converted 41 of 44 extra points and 19 of 37 field goals, his longest being 48 yards. Bahr was much maligned during the season for missing some field goals in critical situations, but he had regained his confidence and his consistency by the start of the playoffs. Bahr made all four of his field goal attempts in the Raiders' three playoff games.

Guy is a defensive weapon for Oakland.



Guy-Bahr hold nod over Runager-Franklin.

The Raiders' kickoff and punt returns are handle primarily by Ira Matthews, a second year pro from Wisconsin. He led the AFC in number of punt returns (48) and was sixth with a 8.8-yard return average.

Matthews led the Raiders in kickoff returns with a 20.2-yard average. Reserve running back Arthur Whittington and cornerback Keith Moody back up Matthews. Whittington returned 21 kickoffs for an 18.7-yard average and had a team-leading 90-yard touchdown return against Cincinnati. Moody returned eight for an 18.8-yard average.

PUNTING	No.	Yards	Avg.	Touch-backs	Inside 20	Long
Guy	71	3,099	43.6	14	18	66

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Matthews	48	7	421	8.8	34	0
McKinney	1	0	0	0.0	0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Matthews	29	585	20.2	45	0
Whittington	21	392	18.7	90	1
Moody	8	150	18.8	39	0
Jensen	1	33	33.0	33	1
Christensen	1	10	10.0	10	0
Ramsey	1	10	10.0	10	0
Hayes	1	0	0.0	0	0

A packed Superdome could affect the kicking game today. Something about all those people causes subtle changes in the indoor climate that can cause kick returners to misjudge the ball. As one NFL observer put it, "Look for the ball to be on the rug a lot."

Distance also is affected. The air under the dome deadens the ball. No doubt that atmospheric note already has been discussed by both Philadelphia kickers, punter Max Runager and placekicker Tony Franklin, who will welcome controlled conditions after two frigid playoff games.

Runager's 39.3-yard average suffers by comparison to that of Ray Guy, his Oakland counterpart, but the second year punter did not have a kick blocked, and he placed 17 kicks inside the 20. Although the play was disallowed in the divisional playoff game, Runager also showed that he can pass from punt formation.

While Tony Franklin has used his bare foot perfectly on extra points (48 of 48 in the regular season and 6 of 6 in two playoff games), his field goal kicking is another matter. The former Texas Aggie connected on only 16 of 31 attempts in 1980. He converted 9 of 16 in the 20-39 yard range, and 3 of 11 from more than 40 yards. Franklin is 3 of 5 in field goal attempts in the postseason.

Barefoot kicker Franklin has good range.

John Sciarra can surprise opponents with a run or a pass from his holder's position on field goal attempts. The Eagles usually try at least one trick play a game from punt formation or on a kicking attempt.

Louie Giammona, the special teams captain, is the leader of the kick coverage and kick return teams. Special teams coach Lynn Stiles says of Giammona, "Pound for pound he is the toughest Eagle—both physically and mentally."

The return of specialist Wally Henry, who missed much of the season with a spleen injury, will help the Eagles' return game on both kickoffs and punts.

PUNTING	No.	Yards	Avg.	Touch-backs	Inside 20	Long
Runager	75	2,947	39.3	8	16	58

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Sciarra	36	1	330	9.2	32	0
Henry	26	1	222	8.5	30	0
Giammona	1	0	8	8.0	8	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
Campfield	26	540	20.8	33	0
Henry	7	154	22.0	39	0
Giammona	7	82	11.7	16	0
Harrington	6	104	17.3	30	0
Dixon	2	30	15.0	15	0
Montgomery	1	23	23.0	23	0
Blue	1	16	16.0	16	0
Baker	1	6	6.0	6	0
Clarke	1	0	0.0	0	0
Spagnola	1	0	0.0	0	0

Oakland cornerback Lester Hayes had the type of season all defensive backs dream of. Hayes led the NFL with 13 interceptions in the regular season, including 1 he returned for a 48-yard touchdown against Buffalo in week four. He might have had even more, but four other interceptions were called back on penalties. Hayes's outstanding performance continued in the playoffs. He picked off five passes in the Raiders' three playoff games, including a 20-yard touchdown against Houston in the wild card game to seal the victory. Incredibly, Hayes's 18 interceptions in the regular season and playoffs were more than the totals of eight teams this season.

Hayes was not the only Oakland player to have success in stealing opponents' passes this season. The Raiders led the NFL in interceptions (35). Eleven players made interceptions; five had three each: safeties Mike Davis and Burgess Owens, cornerbacks Odis McKinney and Dwayne O'Steen, and linebacker Ted Hendricks. Owens had Oakland's only other interception for a touchdown, a 58-yarder against Denver.

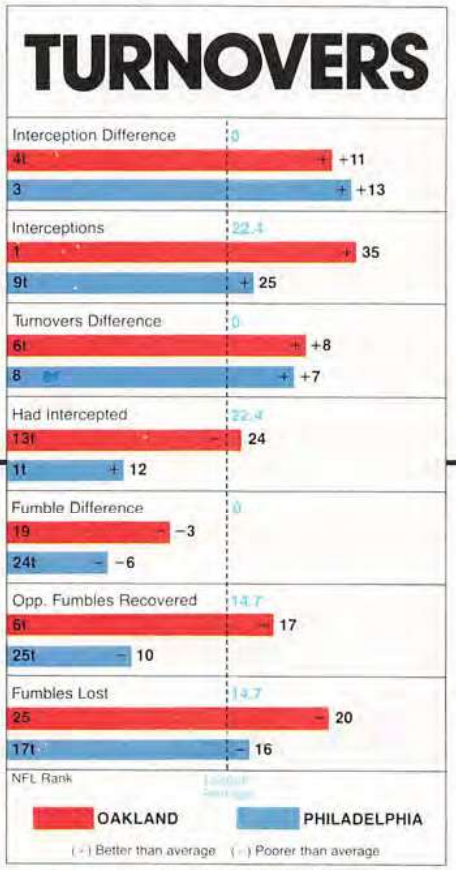
The Raiders' defense was very opportunistic this season, causing 34 fumbles, recovering 17, for a sixth ranking in the NFL. Three of the 17 recoveries went for touchdowns. Defensive end Willie Jones had an 11-yard return against San Diego in week two, running back Todd Christensen recovered a fumbled kickoff in the end zone against San Diego in week six, and linebacker Rod Martin had a 34-yarder at Pittsburgh in week seven.

Jones is part of a turnover-alert defense.

Oakland has an extremely quick defense, one that constantly swarms around opposing ball carriers. More often than not, the Raiders tackle the football, a normally risky practice they seem to get away with because of the play and overall speed of their four excellent linebackers.

On giveaways and takeaways the Raiders had a plus eight, sixth best in the NFL.

Quarterbacks Jim Plunkett and Dan Pastorini had a combined total of 24 passes intercepted this season, 16 for Plunkett and 8 for Pastorini—twice as many as Philadelphia's Ron Jaworski. Raiders quarterbacks ranked thirteenth in the NFL in number of pass interceptions. Plunkett cut down measurably on his interceptions in the three playoff games, only throwing three, none in the AFC championship game. Jaworski, on the other hand, has thrown four, two in each of the Eagles' playoff games.



Passing matchup: Jaworski vs. Hayes et al.

Turnovers can be the key to winning or losing any football game. In the Super Bowl, the odds are overwhelmingly in favor of the team that turns the ball over the least.

The team committing the fewest turnovers has won 10 of the previous 14 Super Bowls. Only twice—Baltimore in Super Bowl V and Pittsburgh in Super Bowl XIV—has the winning team given up the ball more often than its opponents. In two Super Bowls, the participants have had the same number of turnovers.

The ability to take the ball away from opponents has had a direct bearing on the Eagles' playoff victories that led to today's title appearance.

In the victory over Minnesota, Philadelphia recovered three fumbles and made five interceptions (four in the last period). Those takeaways led to two Eagles touchdowns and a field goal.

Fumbles also led to 10 points in the NFC championship game against Dallas.

Dennis Harrison recovered a fumble caused by Carl Hairston's hit on Danny White. It set up Tony Franklin's 26-yard field goal.

Roynell Young forced Tony Dorsett to fumble, Jerry Robinson recovered, and Leroy Harris eventually scored a touchdown. Young, a rookie who has vastly improved since September, also picked off the Eagles' only interception of the day.

Eagles defense makes scoring opportunities.

Free safety Brenard Wilson led the Eagles with six interceptions during the regular season. Young was next with four. Herman Edwards, the other cornerback, had three. Nose tackle Charlie Johnson also had three, a surprising number for his position.

In the significant takeaways versus giveaways category, the Eagles show a plus seven. This was accomplished mostly on the strength of the team's 25 interceptions. The Eagles recovered only 11 of 28 opponent fumbles.

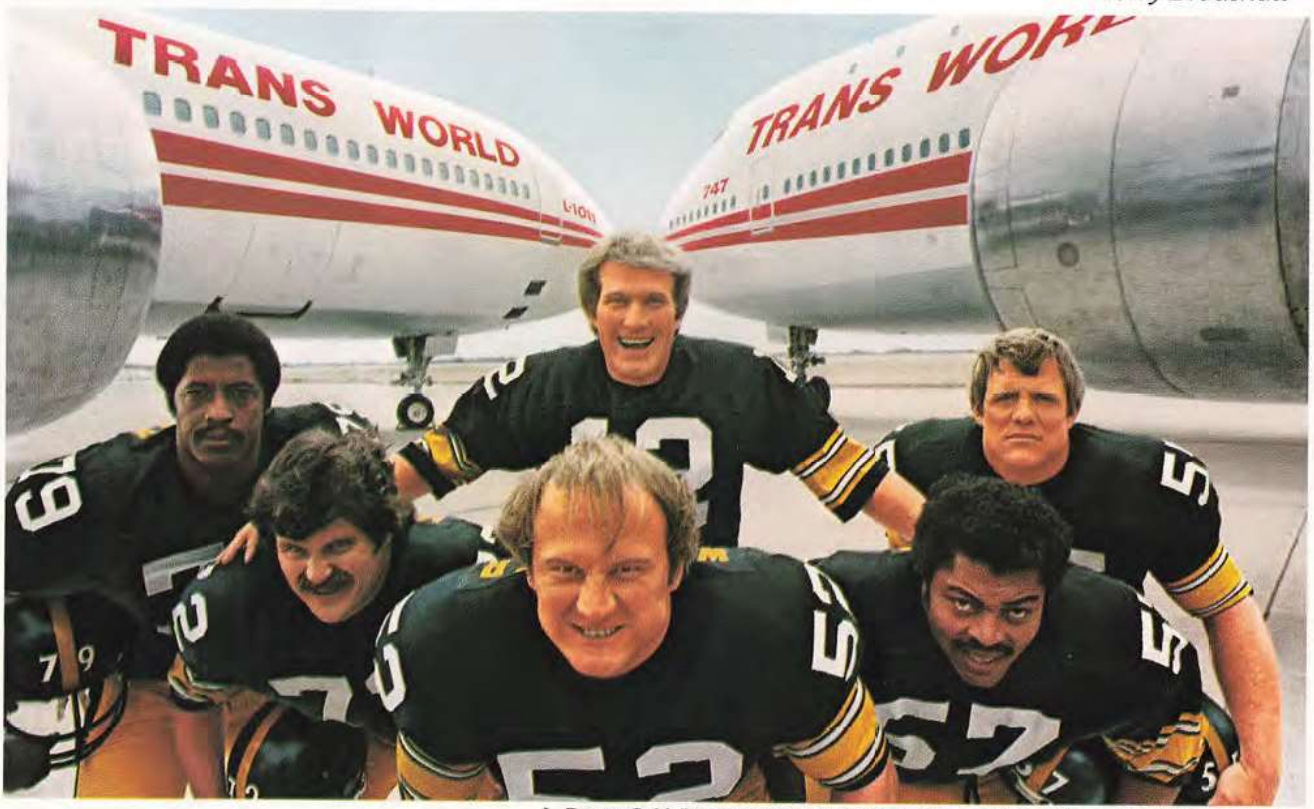
The Eagles also were able to recover just 16 of the 29 fumbles they committed this season.

Ron Jaworski finished the regular season as the NFC's top ranked passer with a 90.9 rating. He was intercepted only 12 times for a 2.7 percentage. Of the NFL's starting quarterbacks, only Cleveland's Brian Sipe (2.5 percent) and Detroit's Gary Danielson (2.6 percent) had lower figures.

Another factor contributing to potential turnovers in the game is the Superdome's AstroTurf playing surface, which is considered the hardest in the NFL.

"My favorite widebodies talk about your favorite widebodies."

—Terry Bradshaw



L. Brown, G. Mullins, M. Webster, S. Davis, J. Kolb, and T. Bradshaw of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

When the Pittsburgh Steelers offensive line talk about your favorite widebodies, they speak from experience. Because while TWA's 747 and L-1011 may be the favorites in the sky, these five are the favorites on the ground, as the widebodied front line of the Super Bowl favorites—the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"Picking these planes is like picking an offensive line. The 747 and L-1011 are big, like us. They're fast and powerful too, like us. Of course, they're a bit more comfortable, but then we're better at keeping big defensemen off Terry's back."

—Gerry Mullins, Right Guard

"When I was told that TWA's 747 and L-1011 were the widebody favorites, I got a little upset and a little jealous. So I made a deal with TWA: they promised to keep their widebodies from playing football, and I promised not to make scheduled flights."

—Sam Davis, Left Guard

"TWA knows that when you have a good first string you should stick with it. That's why every widebody flight coast to coast and to Europe is on a 747 or L-1011. TWA knows that being comfortable can make those long flights seem shorter, which is important if you're 6'4" and weigh 255 pounds."

—Larry Brown, Right Tackle

*"My personal favorite is the L-1011. It's not just one of the **favorite** widebodies, it's the most **advanced** widebody there is. I guess you'd say it's a plane I can really identify with."*

—Mike Webster, Center

"Making TWA's team is even tougher than making the Steelers. After all, the 747 and L-1011 were the only widebodies to make TWA's roster. It's a Super Bowl lineup, though, with the talent and experience to win and the popularity to bring in the fans."

—Jon Kolb, Left Tackle

The next time you've got a game on the road or are taking a vacation during the off-season, fly the airline that flies the favorites. And remember, there's one other similarity between the Steeler widebodies and the TWA widebodies: The Steelers weren't just the Super Bowl favorites, they were the winners.

For reservations or information call your Travel Agent or TWA.

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TWA

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OAKLAND RAIDERS

How They Were Built

Year	Draft (25)	Trades (10)	Free Agents (10) Waivers (0)
1967 *14-2-0* *AFL Champion*	*G* Gene Upshaw *(1)*		
1968 *13-3-0* *1st, AFL West*	*T* Art Shell *(3)*		
1969 *13-2-1* *1st, AFL West*			
1970 *9-5-2* *1st, AFC West*			
1971 *8-4-2* *2nd, AFC West*			
1972 *10-4-1* *1st, AFC West*	*WR* Cliff Branch *(4A)* *C* Dave Dalby *(4B)*		
1973 *10-5-1* *1st, AFC West*	*P* Ray Guy *(1)*		
1974 *13-3-0* *1st, AFC West*	*T* Henry Lawrence *(1)* *RB* Mark van Eeghen *(3)* *WR* Morris Bradshaw *(4)*		
1975 *12-4-0* *1st, AFC West*	*G-C* Steve Sylvester *(10)*		*LB* Ted Hendricks *(FA)*
1976 *16-1-0* *Super Bowl XI* *Champion*			*DE* John Matuszak *(FA)*
1977 *12-4-0* *2nd, AFC West*	*S* Mike Davis *(2)* *G* Mickey Marvin *(4)* *CB* Lester Hayes *(5A)* *LB* Jeff Barnes *(5B)* *WR* Rich Martini *(7)*		*LB* Rod Martin *(FA)*
1978 *9-7-0* *2nd, AFC West*	*DE-NT* Dave Browning *(2)* *RB* Derrick Jensen *(3A)* *T-G* Lindsey Mason *(3B)* *TE* Derrick Ramsey *(5)* *RB* Arthur Whittington *(7)*	*TE* Raymond Chester *(from Baltimore)* *CB* Monte Jackson *(from Los Angeles)*	*QB* Jim Plunkett *(FA)*
1979 *9-7-0* *4th, AFC West*	*DE* Willie Jones *(2)* *KR-WR-RB* I. Matthews *(6)* *G-T* Bruce Davis *(11)* *NT-DE* Reggie Kinlaw *(12)*	*NT* Dave Pear *(from Tampa Bay)*	*RB-TE* T. Christensen *(FA)*
1980 *14-5-0* *AFC Champion*	*QB* Marc Wilson *(1)* *LB* Matt Millen *(2)*	*DE* Joe Campbell *(from New Orleans)* *WR* Bob Chandler *(from Buffalo)* *DE* Cedrick Hardman *(from San Francisco)* *RB* Kenny King *(from Houston)* *CB* Odis McKinney *(from N.Y. Giants)* *CB* Dwayne O'Steen *(from Los Angeles)* *S* Burgess Owens *(from N.Y. Jets)*	*K* Chris Bahr *(FA)* *LB* Mario Celotto *(FA)* *LB* R. McClanahan *(FA)* *CB-KR* Keith Moody *(FA)* *LB* Bob Nelson *(FA)*

Tom Flores

In only his second year as head coach, Tom Flores has led the Raiders to the Super Bowl against long odds. A preseason pick for last place in the AFC West by many observers, the Raiders dropped three of their first five games, then lost starting quarterback Dan Pastorini in the fifth game.

The 43-year-old Fresno, California, native—the NFL's first Hispanic head coach—guided the team through a wild card victory over Houston, a zero-degree game in Cleveland, and another road victory in San Diego.

Flores attended Fresno City College following graduation from Sanger High School. He transferred to College of the Pacific for the 1956 and 1957 seasons. He signed with the Raiders in 1960, the AFL's charter season.

Flores led the AFL in completion percentage in 1960 and fewest interceptions in 1961. In the final game of 1963, Flores threw six touchdown passes.

Flores was traded to the Bills in 1967, then played with the Chiefs in 1969 and 1970. He coached the Bills' quarterbacks in 1971 before joining the Raiders' organization in 1972.

Flores's staff includes Sam Boghosian, offensive line; Willie Brown, special assistant; Lew Erber, receivers; Chet Franklin, defensive backs; Earl Leggett, defensive line; Joe Madro, assistant coach; Bob Mischak, strength, conditioning; Steve Ortmayer, special teams; Charlie Sumner, linebackers; and Ray Willsey, offensive backs.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

How They Were Built

Year	Draft (21)	Trades (8)	Free Agents (14) Waivers (2)
1971 *6-7-1* *3rd, NFC East*	*WR* Harold Carmichael *(7)*		
1972 *2-11-1* *5th, NFC East*	*LB* John Bunting *(10)*		
1973 *5-8-1* *3rd, NFC East*	*T* Jerry Sisemore *(1)* *C* Guy Morriss *(2)* *S* Randy Logan *(3)*		
1974 *7-7-0* *4th, NFC East*	*LB* Frank LeMaster *(4)* *TE* Keith Krepfle *(5)*	*LB* Bill Bergey *(from Cincinnati)*	*WR* Charles Smith *(FA)*
1975 *4-10-0* *5th, NFC East*		*T* Stan Walters *(from Cincinnati)*	
1976 *4-10-0* *4th, NFC East*	*DE* Carl Hairston *(7)*		
1977 *5-9-0* *4th, NFC East*	*RB* W. Montgomery *(6)* *NT* Charlie Johnson *(7)*	*QB* Ron Jaworski *(from Los Angeles)*	*CB* Herman Edwards *(FA)* *WR-KR* Wally Henry *(FA)*
1978 *9-8-0* *2nd, NFC East*	*LB* Reggie Wilkes *(3)* *DE* Dennis Harrison *(4)* *RB* Billy Campfield *(11)*	*S-KR* John Sciarra *(from Tampa Bay)*	*NT* Ken Clarke *(FA)* *RB-KR* L. Giammona *(FA)* *G* Woody Peoples *(FA)* *LB* Ray Phillips *(FA)*
1979 *12-6-0* *2nd, NFC East*	*LB* Jerry Robinson *(1)* *G* Petey Perot *(2)* *K* Tony Franklin *(3)* *P* Max Runager *(8)* *LB* Al Chesley *(11)*	*RB* Leroy Harris *(from Miami)* *DE* Claude Humphrey *(from Atlanta)*	*CB* Richard Blackmore *(FA)* *G* Steve Kenney *(FA)* *C* Mark Slater *(FA)* *TE* John Spagnola *(FA)* *S* Brenard Wilson *(FA)*
1980 *14-4-0* *NFC Champion*	*CB* Roynell Young *(1)* *RB* Perry Harrington *(2)* *DE* Thomas Brown *(11A)*	*G* Ron Baker *(from Baltimore)* *QB* Joe Pisarcik *(from N.Y. Giants)*	*S* Zac Henderson *(W)* *QB* Rob Hertel *(FA)* *WR* Rodney Parker *(W)* *RB* Bob Torrey *(FA)*

Dick Vermeil

On January 1, 1976, Eagles owner Leonard Tose and general manager Jim Murray were conferring on candidates for the team's vacant head coaching position while they were watching the Rose Bowl on television. UCLA, a decided underdog, was defeating number one ranked Ohio State, and the Eagles' front office men liked what they saw of the Bruins' young, energetic coach, Dick Vermeil. On February 8, 1976 Tose and Murray signed Vermeil.

The 44-year-old native of Calistoga, California, was a quarterback at Napa Junior College and San Jose State in the 1950s.

Vermeil became an NFL assistant with the Rams in 1968, went to UCLA as an assistant the next year, and returned to the Rams in 1970. He took over at UCLA in 1974.

Vermeil has won several coach of the year honors the past three seasons. His regular season record is 41-35-0.

Off the field he devotes time to the Special Olympics and the Eagles Fly for Leukemia campaign.

Vermeil's staff includes Chuck Bednarik, honorary coach; Fred Bruney, defensive backfield; Marion Campbell, defensive coordinator; Chuck Clausen, defensive line; Dick Coury, wide receivers; Sid Gillman, quarterbacks, research and development; George Hill, linebackers; Ken Iman, offensive line; Billy Joe, running backs; Lynn Stiles, special teams, tight ends; and Jerry Wampfler, offensive line, running game.

Congratulations Harold Carmichael NFL Man Of The Year

SPONSORED BY MILLER HIGH LIFE

Miller High Life is pleased to announce the winners of the 1980-81 NFL Man of the Year Program. The NFL Man of the Year will be honored at the Pro Bowl in Honolulu on February 1, 1981. In addition, Miller High Life will be donating $36,000 in scholarship funds to the NFL Man of the Year and all teams' top vote getters who are listed below:

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

ATLANTA FALCONS
Wallace Francis, WR

CHICAGO BEARS
Ted Albrecht, T

DALLAS COWBOYS
Drew Pearson, WR

DETRIOT LIONS
Gary Danielson, QB

GREEN BAY PACKERS
Johnnie Gray, S

LOS ANGELES RAMS
Vince Ferragamo, QB

MINNESOTA VIKINGS
Ahmad Rashad, WR

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
Rich Mauti, WR

NEW YORK GIANTS
Dave Jennings, P

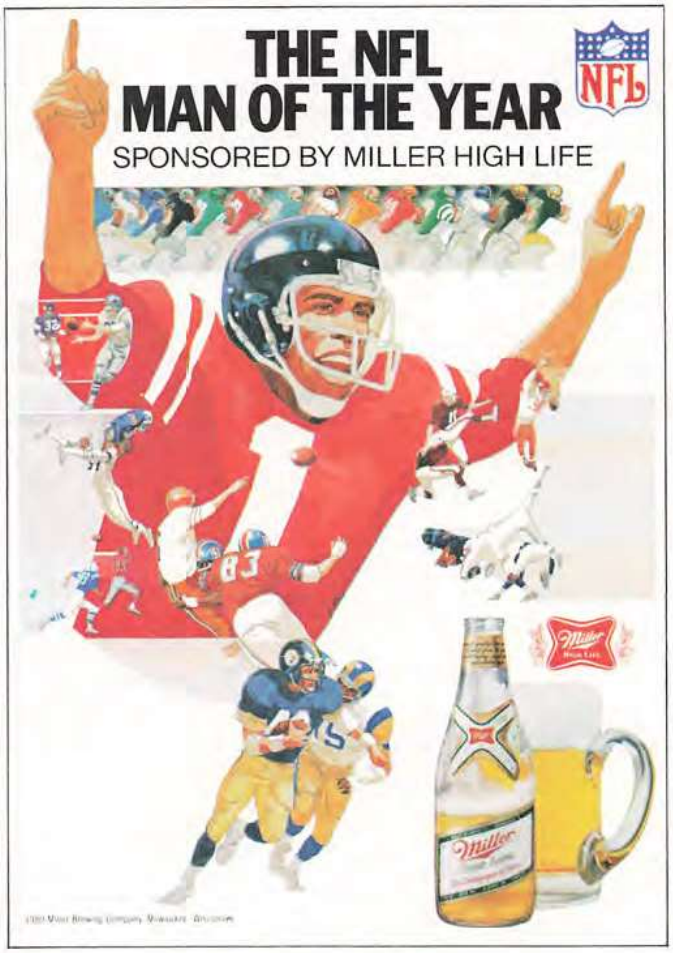
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES
Harold Carmichael, WR

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS
Jim Hart, QB

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS
Paul Hofer, RB

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS
Lee Roy Selmon, DE

WASHINGTON REDSKINS
Ken Houston, S



AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

BALTIMORE COLTS
Joe Ehrmann, DT

BUFFALO BILLS
Joe Ferguson, QB

CINCINNATI BENGALS
Dave Lapham, G

CLEVELAND BROWNS
Mike Pruitt, RB

DENVER BRONCOS
Haven Moses, WR

HOUSTON OILERS
Earl Campbell, RB

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS
Art Still, DE

MIAMI DOLPHINS
Tim Foley, S-CB

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS
Steve Nelson, LB

NEW YORK JETS
Joe Fields, C

OAKLAND RAIDERS
Mark van Eeghen, RB

PITTSBURGH STEELERS
Rocky Bleier, RB

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS
Charlie Joiner, WR

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS
Jim Zorn, QB

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OAKLAND RAIDERS

AL DAVIS
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E. W. McGAH
General Partner

TOM FLORES
Head Coach

6 MARC WILSON
QB 6-5 205 23

8 RAY GUY
P 6-3 190 30

10 CHRIS BAHR
K 5-10 175 27

16 JIM PLUNKETT
QB 6-2 205 32

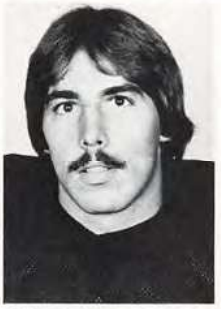
21 CLIFF BRANCH
WR 5-11 170 32

22 A. WHITTINGTON
RB 5-11 180 25

23 ODIS McKINNEY
CB 6-2 190 23

26 KEITH MOODY
CB-KR 5-11 175 27

30 MARK van EEGHEN
RB 6-2 225 28



31 DERRICK JENSEN
RB 6-1 225 24

33 KENNY KING
RB 5-11 205 23

35 DWAYNE O'STEEN
CB 6-1 195 25

36 MIKE DAVIS
S 6-3 200 24

37 LESTER HAYES
CB 6-0 195 24

42 MONTE JACKSON
CB 5-11 200 27

43 IRA MATTHEWS
KR-WR 5-8 175 23

44 BURGESS OWENS
S 6-2 200 29

46 T. CHRISTENSEN
TE-RB 6-3 230 24

50 DAVE DALBY
C 6-3 250 30

51 BOB NELSON
LB 6-4 230 27

52 MARIO CELOTTO
LB 6-3 225 24

53 ROD MARTIN
LB 6-2 210 26

55 MATT MILLEN
LB 6-2 260 22

56 JEFF BARNES
LB 6-2 215 25

57 R. McCLANAHAN
LB 6-5 225 26

62 REGGIE KINLAW
NT 6-2 240 23

63 GENE UPSHAW
G 6-5 255 35

OAKLAND RAIDERS

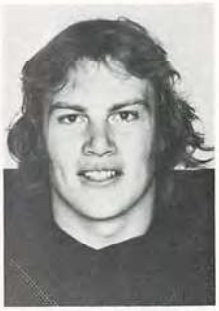
65 MICKEY MARVIN
G 6-4 270 25

66 S. SYLVESTER
G-C 6-4 260 27

70 H. LAWRENCE
T 6-4 270 29

71 LINDSEY MASON
T-G 6-5 265 25

72 JOHN MATUSZAK
DE 6-8 280 30



73 DAVE BROWNING
DE 6-5 245 24

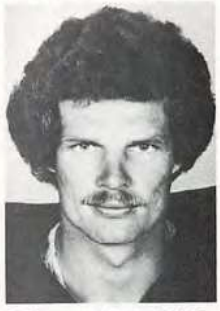
74 DAVE PEAR
NT 6-2 250 27

77 JOE CAMPBELL
DE-NT 6-6 250 25

78 ART SHELL
T 6-5 280 34

79 BRUCE DAVIS
G-T 6-6 280 24

81 M. BRADSHAW
WR 6-1 195 28

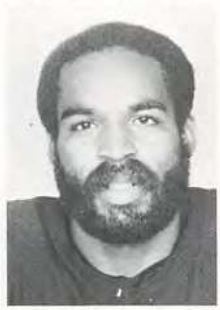


83 TED HENDRICKS
LB 6-7 225 33

84 D. RAMSEY
TE 6-4 225 23

85 BOB CHANDLER
WR 6-1 180 31

86 C. HARDMAN
DE 6-4 245 32



88 R. CHESTER
TE 6-4 235 32

89 RICH MARTINI
WR 6-2 185 25

90 WILLIE JONES
DE 6-4 245 23

SAM BOGHOSIAN
Assistant Coach

WILLIE BROWN
Assistant Coach

LEW ERBER
Assistant Coach

CHET FRANKLIN
Assistant Coach

EARL LEGGETT
Assistant Coach

BOB MISCHAK
Assistant Coach

STEVE ORTMAYER
Assistant Coach

CHARLIE SUMNER
Assistant Coach

RAY WILLSEY
Assistant Coach

GEORGE ANDERSON
Head Trainer

ROD MARTIN
Trainer

RICHARD ROMANSKI
Equipment Manager

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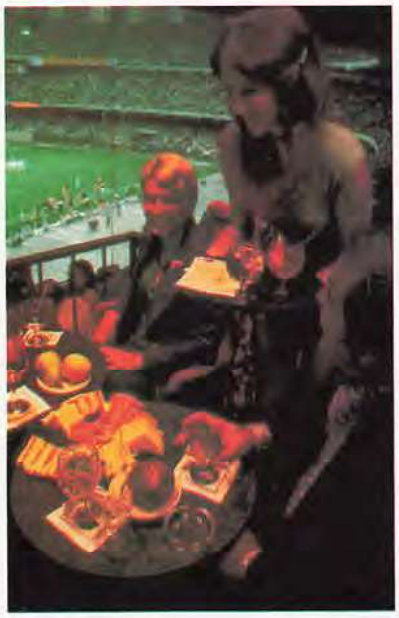

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OAKLAND RAIDERS

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College
10	Bahr, Chris	K	5-10	175	2/3/53	5	Penn State
56	Barnes, Jeff	LB	6-2	215	3/1/55	4	California
81	Bradshaw, Morris	WR	6-1	195	10/19/52	7	Ohio State
21	Branch, Cliff	WR	5-11	170	8/1/48	9	Colorado
73	Browning, Dave	DE	6-5	245	8/18/56	3	Washington
77	Campbell, Joe	DE-NT	6-6	250	5/8/55	4	Maryland
52	Celotto, Mario	LB	6-3	225	8/23/56	2	USC
85	Chandler, Bob	WR	6-1	180	4/24/49	10	USC
88	Chester, Raymond	TE	6-4	235	6/28/48	11	Morgan State
46	Christensen, Todd	TE-RB	6-3	230	8/23/56	2	Brigham Young
50	Dalby, Dave	C	6-3	250	10/19/50	9	UCLA
79	Davis, Bruce	G-T	6-6	280	6/21/56	2	UCLA
36	Davis, Mike	S	6-3	200	4/15/56	3	Colorado
8	Guy, Ray	P	6-3	190	12/22/49	8	Southern Mississippi
86	Hardman, Cedrick	DE	6-4	245	10/4/48	11	North Texas State
37	Hayes, Lester	CB	6-0	195	12/22/55	4	Texas A & M
83	Hendricks, Ted	LB	6-7	225	11/1/47	12	Miami
42	Jackson, Monte	CB	5-11	200	7/14/53	6	San Diego State
31	Jensen, Derrick	RB	6-1	225	4/27/56	2	Texas-Arlington
90	Jones, Willie	DE	6-4	245	11/22/57	2	Florida State
33	King, Kenny	RB	5-11	205	3/7/57	2	Oklahoma
62	Kinlaw, Reggie	NT	6-2	240	1/1/57	2	Oklahoma
70	Lawrence, Henry	T	6-4	270	9/26/51	7	Florida A & M
53	Martin, Rod	LB	6-2	210	4/7/54	4	USC
89	Martini, Rich	WR	6-2	185	11/19/55	2	California-Davis
65	Marvin, Mickey	G	6-4	270	10/5/55	4	Tennessee
71	Mason, Lindsey	T-G	6-5	265	8/1/55	2	Kansas
43	Matthews, Ira	KR-WR-RB	5-8	175	8/23/57	2	Wisconsin
72	Matuszak, John	DE	6-8	280	10/25/50	8	Tampa
57	McClanahan, Randy	LB	6-5	225	12/12/54	3	Southwestern Louisiana
23	McKinney, Odis	CB	6-2	190	5/19/57	3	Colorado
55	Millen, Matt	LB	6-2	260	3/12/58	R	Penn State
26	Moody, Keith	CB-KR	5-11	175	6/13/53	5	Syracuse
51	Nelson, Bob	LB	6-4	230	6/30/53	5	Nebraska
35	O'Steen, Dwayne	CB	6-1	195	12/20/54	3	San Jose State
44	Owens, Burgess	S	6-2	200	8/2/51	8	Miami
74	Pear, Dave	NT	6-2	250	6/1/53	6	Washington
16	Plunkett, Jim	QB	6-2	205	12/15/47	10	Stanford
84	Ramsey, Derrick	TE	6-4	225	12/23/56	3	Kentucky
78	Shell, Art	T	6-5	280	11/26/46	13	Maryland-Eastern Shore
66	Sylvester, Steve	G-C	6-4	260	3/4/53	6	Notre Dame
63	Upshaw, Gene	G	6-5	255	8/15/45	14	Texas A & I
30	van Eeghen, Mark	RB	6-2	225	4/19/52	7	Colgate
22	Whittington, Arthur	RB	5-11	180	9/4/55	3	Southern Methodist
6	Wilson, Marc	QB	6-5	205	2/15/57	R	Brigham Young

R—A first year player who has not previously been in an NFL training camp.

THREE-DEEP LINEUPS

OFFENSE				
WR	**—21 Cliff Branch**	89 Rich Martini	43 Ira Matthews	
LT	**—78 Art Shell**	71 Lindsey Mason	79 Bruce Davis	
LG	**—63 Gene Upshaw**	66 Steve Sylvester	79 Bruce Davis	
C	**—50 Dave Dalby**	66 Steve Sylvester		
RG	**—65 Mickey Marvin**	66 Steve Sylvester	79 Bruce Davis	
RT	**—70 Henry Lawrence**	71 Lindsey Mason	79 Bruce Davis	
TE	**—88 Raymond Chester**	84 Derrick Ramsey	46 Todd Christensen	
WR	**—85 Bob Chandler**	81 Morris Bradshaw	43 Ira Matthews	
QB	**—16 Jim Plunkett**	6 Marc Wilson		
RB	**—30 Mark van Eeghen**	31 Derrick Jensen	46 Todd Christensen	
RB	**—33 Kenny King**	22 Arthur Whittington	43 Ira Matthews	
DEFENSE				
LE	**—72 John Matuszak**	90 Willie Jones	77 Joe Campbell	
NT	**—62 Reggie Kinlaw**	74 Dave Pear	77 Joe Campbell	
RE	**—73 Dave Browning**	86 Cedrick Hardman	77 Joe Campbell	
LOLB	**—83 Ted Hendricks**	56 Jeff Barnes		
LILB	**—55 Matt Millen**	57 Randy McClanahan	52 Mario Celotto	
RILB	**—51 Bob Nelson**	57 Randy McClanahan	52 Mario Celotto	
ROLB	**—53 Rod Martin**	56 Jeff Barnes		
LCB	**—37 Lester Hayes**	35 Dwayne O'Steen	26 Keith Moody	
RCB	**—35 Dwayne O'Steen**	42 Monte Jackson	23 Odis McKinney	
SS	**—36 Mike Davis**	23 Odis McKinney		
FS	**—44 Burgess Owens**	23 Odis McKinney		
SPECIALISTS				
P	**—8 Ray Guy**	10 Chris Bahr		
K	**—10 Chris Bahr**	8 Ray Guy		
H	**—85 Bob Chandler**	8 Ray Guy		
PR	**—43 Ira Matthews**	26 Keith Moody		
KR	**—43 Ira Matthews**	22 Arthur Whittington	26 Keith Moody	
PC	**—46 Todd Christensen**	66 Steve Sylvester	50 Dave Dalby	
KC	**—50 Dave Dalby**	66 Steve Sylvester		

Bold Face—Starters

Performance and reliability. That's why 73 of the top 100 radio stations that use turntables use Technics direct-drive turntables. In fact, of those stations surveyed by Opinion Research Corporation, Technics was chosen 6 to 1 over our nearest competitor.

Why did station engineers choose Technics direct drive: "Low rumble"—as low as −78 dB. "Fast start"—as fast as 0.7 sec. "Wow and flutter"—as low as 0.025%. "Direct drive and constant speed"—as constant as 99.998%. Perhaps one engineer said it best when he described Technics direct drive as the "latest state of the art."

But Technics state of the art goes beyond performance. Station engineers also depend on Technics direct-drive turntables because of "reliability and past experience" as well as "quality and durability." In fact, the most listened to classical music station, WQXR in New York, has depended on Technics direct-drive turntables since 1972.

You'll choose Technics direct-drive turntables for the same performance and reliability that's made Technics the turntable top radio stations use. And there are eleven Technics direct-drive turntables from manuals, to semi-automatics, to fully automatics, to changers. Starting at $125 to $600 (Technics suggested retail prices). So listen to Technics and hear the Science of Sound.

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When the Raiders Have the Ball

OAKLAND OFFENSE

21	Cliff Branch	WR
78	Art Shell	LT
63	Gene Upshaw	LG
50	Dave Dalby	C
65	Mickey Marvin	RG
70	Henry Lawrence	RT
88	Raymond Chester	TE
85	Bob Chandler	WR
16	Jim Plunkett	QB
30	Mark van Eeghen	RB
33	Kenny King	RB

PHILADELPHIA DEFENSE

68	Dennis Harrison	LE
65	Charlie Johnson	NT
78	Carl Hairston	RE
95	John Bunting	LOLB
66	Bill Bergey	LILB
55	Frank LeMaster	RILB
56	Jerry Robinson	ROLB
43	Roynell Young	LCB
46	Herman Edwards	RCB
41	Randy Logan	SS
22	Brenard Wilson	FS

RAIDERS NUMERICAL ROSTER

6	Wilson, Marc	QB
8	Guy, Ray	P
10	Bahr, Chris	K
16	Plunkett, Jim	QB
21	Branch, Cliff	WR
22	Whittington, Arthur	RB
23	McKinney, Odis	CB
26	Moody, Keith	CB-KR
30	van Eeghen, Mark	RB
31	Jensen, Derrick	RB
33	King, Kenny	RB
35	O'Steen, Dwayne	CB
36	Davis, Mike	S
37	Hayes, Lester	CB
42	Jackson, Monte	CB
43	Matthews, Ira	KR-WR-RB
44	Owens, Burgess	S
46	Christensen, Todd	TE-RB
50	Dalby, Dave	C
51	Nelson, Bob	LB
52	Celotto, Mario	LB
53	Martin, Rod	LB
55	Millen, Matt	LB
56	Barnes, Jeff	LB
57	McClanahan, Randy	LB
62	Kinlaw, Reggie	NT
63	Upshaw, Gene	G
65	Marvin, Mickey	G
66	Sylvester, Steve	G-C
70	Lawrence, Henry	T
71	Mason, Lindsey	T-G
72	Matuszak, John	DE
73	Browning, Dave	DE
74	Pear, Dave	NT
77	Campbell, Joe	DE-NT
78	Shell, Art	T
79	Davis, Bruce	G-T
81	Bradshaw, Morris	WR
83	Hendricks, Ted	LB
84	Ramsey, Derrick	TE
85	Chandler, Bob	WR
86	Hardman, Cedrick	DE
88	Chester, Raymond	TE
89	Martini, Rich	WR
90	Jones, Willie	DE

When the Eagles Have the Ball

PHILADELPHIA OFFENSE

17	Harold Carmichael	WR
75	Stan Walters	LT
62	Petey Perot	LG
50	Guy Morriss	C
69	Woody Peoples	RG
76	Jerry Sisemore	RT
84	Keith Krepfle	TE
85	Charles Smith	WR
7	Ron Jaworski	QB
20	Leroy Harris	RB
31	Wilbert Montgomery	RB

OAKLAND DEFENSE

72	John Matuszak	LE
62	Reggie Kinlaw	NT
73	Dave Browning	RE
83	Ted Hendricks	LOLB
55	Matt Millen	LILB
51	Bob Nelson	RILB
53	Rod Martin	ROLB
37	Lester Hayes	LCB
35	Dwayne O'Steen	RCB
36	Mike Davis	SS
44	Burgess Owens	FS

EAGLES NUMERICAL ROSTER

1	Franklin, Tony	K
4	Runager, Max	P
7	Jaworski, Ron	QB
9	Pisarcik, Joe	QB
16	Hertel, Rob	QB
17	Carmichael, Harold	WR
20	Harris, Leroy	RB
21	Sciarra, John	S-KR
22	Wilson, Brenard	S
24	Henderson, Zac	S
27	Blackmore, Richard	CB
31	Montgomery, Wilbert	RB
33	Giammona, Louie	RB-KR
35	Harrington, Perry	RB
37	Campfield, Billy	RB
39	Torrey, Bob	RB
41	Logan, Randy	S
43	Young, Roynell	CB
46	Edwards, Herman	CB
50	Morriss, Guy	C
51	Wilkes, Reggie	LB
52	Phillips, Ray	LB
55	LeMaster, Frank	LB
56	Robinson, Jerry	LB
59	Chesley, Al	LB
61	Slater, Mark	C
62	Perot, Petey	G
63	Baker, Ron	G
65	Johnson, Charlie	NT
66	Bergey, Bill	LB
68	Harrison, Dennis	DE
69	Peoples, Woody	G
71	Clarke, Ken	NT
73	Kenney, Steve	T
75	Walters, Stan	T
76	Sisemore, Jerry	T
78	Hairston, Carl	DE
83	Parker, Rodney	WR
84	Krepfle, Keith	TE
85	Smith, Charles	WR
87	Humphrey, Claude	DE
88	Spagnola, John	TE
89	Henry, Wally	WR-KR
95	Bunting, John	LB
97	Brown, Thomas	DE

OFFICIALS: 12 Ben Dreith, *Referee*; 20 Frank Sinkovitz, *Umpire*; 10 Tom Dooley, *Line Judge*; 8 Tony Veteri, *Head Linesman*; 7 Tom Kelleher, *Back Judge*; 9 Dean Look, *Side Judge*; 17 Fritz Graf, *Field Judge*. Alternates: 6 Dick Jorgensen, 4 John Keck.

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PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Birthdate	NFL Exp.	College
63	Baker, Ron	G	6-4	250	11/19/54	3	Oklahoma State
66	Bergey, Bill	LB	6-3	245	2/9/45	12	Arkansas State
27	Blackmore, Richard	CB	5-10	174	8/14/56	2	Mississippi State
97	Brown, Thomas	DE	6-4	240	7/8/57	R	Baylor
95	Bunting, John	LB	6-1	220	7/15/50	9	North Carolina
37	Campfield, Billy	RB	6-0	205	8/20/56	3	Kansas
17	Carmichael, Harold	WR	6-8	225	9/22/49	10	Southern U.
59	Chesley, Al	LB	6-3	240	8/23/57	2	Pittsburgh
71	Clarke, Ken	NT	6-2	260	8/28/56	3	Syracuse
46	Edwards, Herman	CB	6-0	190	4/27/54	4	San Diego State
1	Franklin, Tony	K	5-8	182	11/18/56	2	Texas A & M
33	Giammona, Louie	RB-KR	5-9	180	3/3/53	4	Utah State
78	Hairston, Carl	DE	6-3	260	12/15/52	5	Maryland State
35	Harrington, Perry	RB	5-11	210	3/13/58	R	Jackson State
20	Harris, Leroy	RB	5-9	230	7/3/54	4	Arkansas State
68	Harrison, Dennis	DE	6-8	275	7/31/56	3	Vanderbilt
24	Henderson, Zac	S	6-1	190	10/14/55	R	Oklahoma
89	Henry, Wally	WR-KR	5-8	170	10/30/54	4	UCLA
16	Hertel, Rob	QB	6-2	198	2/21/55	2	USC
87	Humphrey, Claude	DE	6-5	258	6/29/44	13	Tennessee State
7	Jaworski, Ron	QB	6-2	196	3/23/51	6	Youngstown State
65	Johnson, Charlie	NT	6-3	262	1/17/52	4	Colorado
73	Kenney, Steve	T	6-4	262	12/26/55	1	Clemson
84	Krepfle, Keith	TE	6-3	230	2/4/52	6	Iowa State
55	LeMaster, Frank	LB	6-2	238	3/12/52	7	Kentucky
41	Logan, Randy	S	6-1	195	5/1/51	8	Michigan
31	Montgomery, Wilbert	RB	5-10	195	9/16/54	4	Abilene Christian
50	Morriss, Guy	C	6-4	255	5/13/51	8	Texas Christian
83	Parker, Rodney	WR	6-1	190	7/18/53	1	Tennessee State
69	Peoples, Woody	G	6-2	260	8/16/43	12	Grambling
62	Perot, Petey	G	6-2	261	4/18/57	2	Northwestern Louisiana
52	Phillips, Ray	LB	6-4	230	3/18/54	4	Nebraska
9	Pisarcik, Joe	QB	6-4	220	7/2/52	4	New Mexico State
56	Robinson, Jerry	LB	6-2	218	12/18/56	2	UCLA
4	Runager, Max	P	6-1	189	3/24/56	2	South Carolina
21	Sciarra, John	S-KR	5-11	185	3/2/54	3	UCLA
76	Sisemore, Jerry	T	6-4	265	7/16/51	8	Texas
61	Slater, Mark	C	6-2	257	2/1/55	3	Minnesota
85	Smith, Charles	WR	6-1	185	7/26/50	7	Grambling
88	Spagnola, John	TE	6-4	240	8/1/57	2	Yale
39	Torrey, Bob	RB	6-2	232	1/30/57	3	Penn State
75	Walters, Stan	T	6-6	275	5/27/48	9	Syracuse
51	Wilkes, Reggie	LB	6-4	230	5/27/56	3	Georgia Tech
22	Wilson, Brenard	S	6-0	175	8/15/55	2	Vanderbilt
43	Young, Roynell	CB	6-1	181	12/1/57	R	Alcorn State

R—A first year player who has not previously been in an NFL training camp.

THREE-DEEP LINEUPS

OFFENSE				
WR	**—17 Harold Carmichael**	83 Rodney Parker	89 Wally Henry	
LT	**—75 Stan Walters**	73 Steve Kenney		
LG	**—62 Petey Perot**	63 Ron Baker		
C	**—50 Guy Morriss**	61 Mark Slater		
RG	**—69 Woody Peoples**	63 Ron Baker		
RT	**—76 Jerry Sisemore**	73 Steve Kenney		
TE	**—84 Keith Krepfle**	88 John Spagnola		
WR	**—85 Charles Smith**	83 Rodney Parker	89 Wally Henry	
QB	**—7 Ron Jaworski**	9 Joe Pisarcik	16 Rob Hertel	
RB	**—20 Leroy Harris**	35 Perry Harrington	39 Bob Torrey	
RB	**—31 Wilbert Montgomery**	33 Louie Giammona	37 Billy Campfield	35 Perry Harrington
DEFENSE				
LE	**—68 Dennis Harrison**	87 Claude Humphrey		
NT	**—65 Charlie Johnson**	71 Ken Clarke		
RE	**—78 Carl Hairston**	97 Thomas Brown		
LOLB	**—95 John Bunting**	51 Reggie Wilkes		
LILB	**—66 Bill Bergey**	59 Al Chesley		
RILB	**—55 Frank LeMaster**	59 Al Chesley		
ROLB	**—56 Jerry Robinson**	52 Ray Phillips		
LCB	**—43 Roynell Young**	27 Richard Blackmore		
RCB	**—46 Herman Edwards**	27 Richard Blackmore		
SS	**—41 Randy Logan**	24 Zac Henderson		
FS	**—22 Brenard Wilson**	21 John Sciarra		
SPECIALISTS				
P	**—4 Max Runager**	1 Tony Franklin		
K	**—1 Tony Franklin**	4 Max Runager		
H	**—21 John Sciarra**	7 Ron Jaworski		
PR	**—21 John Sciarra**	33 Louie Giammona	89 Wally Henry	
KR	**—37 Billy Campfield**	35 Perry Harrington	33 Louie Giammona	
PC	**—61 Mark Slater**	50 Guy Morriss		
KC	**—50 Guy Morriss**	61 Mark Slater		

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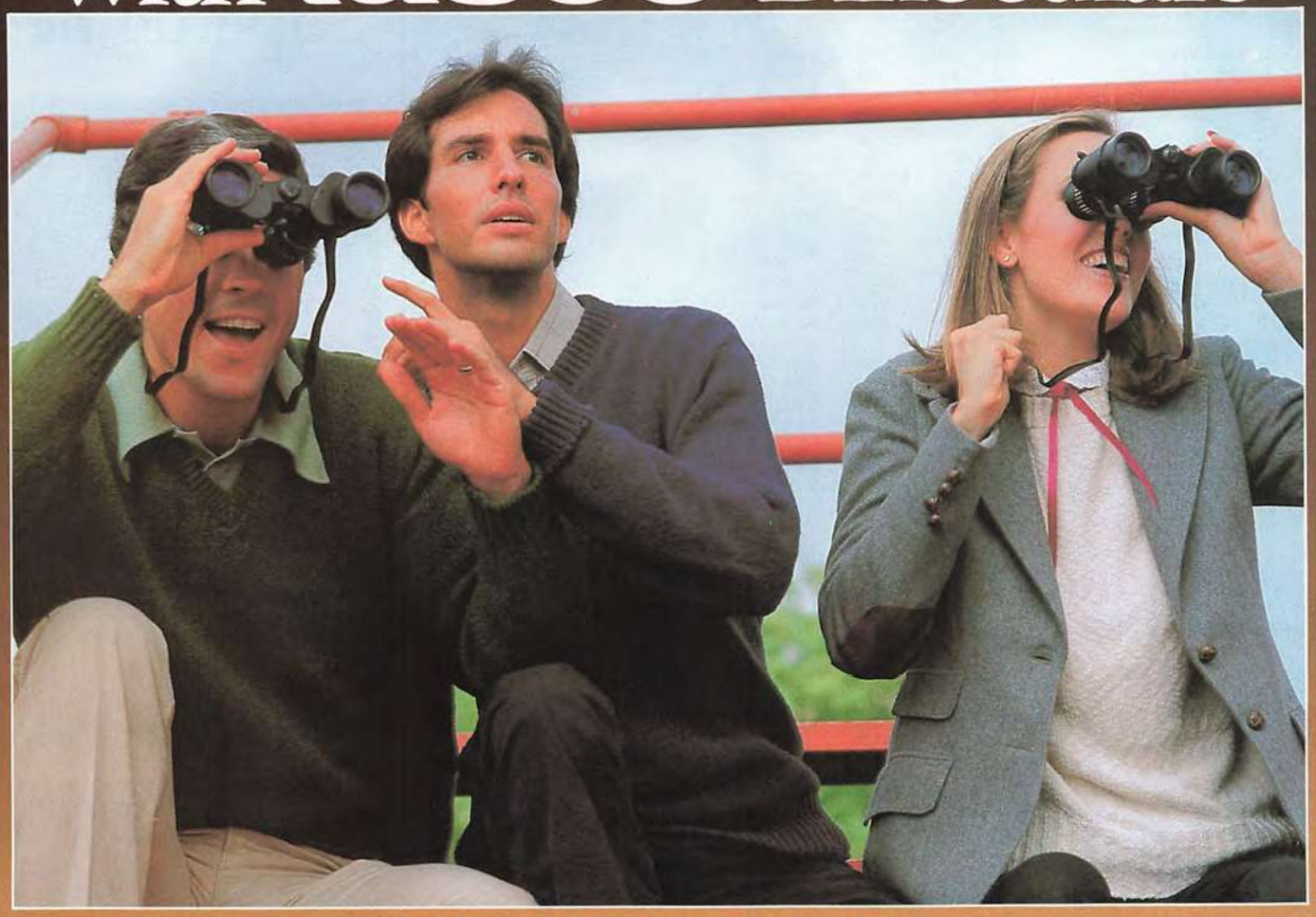

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LEONARD H. TOSE
President

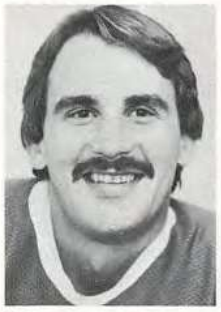
JIM MURRAY
General Manager

DICK VERMEIL
Head Coach

1 TONY FRANKLIN
K 5-8 182 24

4 MAX RUNAGER
P 6-1 189 24

7 RON JAWORSKI
QB 6-2 196 29



9 JOE PISARCIK
QB 6-4 220 28

16 ROB HERTEL
QB 6-2 198 25

17 H. CARMICHAEL
WR 6-8 225 31

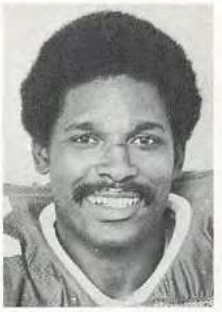
20 LEROY HARRIS
RB 5-9 230 26

21 JOHN SCIARRA
S-KR 5-11 185 26

22 BRENARD WILSON
S 6-0 175 25

24 ZAC HENDERSON
S 6-1 190 25

27 R. BLACKMORE
CB 5-10 174 24



31 W. MONTGOMERY
RB 5-10 195 26

33 LOUIE GIAMMONA
RB-KR 5-9 180 27

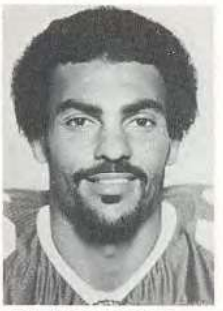
35 P. HARRINGTON
RB 5-11 210 22

37 BILLY CAMPFIELD
RB 6-0 205 24

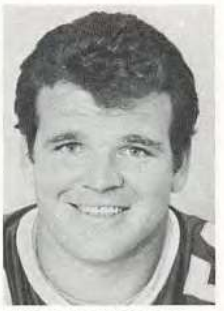
39 BOB TORREY
RB 6-2 232 23

41 RANDY LOGAN
S 6-1 195 29

43 ROYNELL YOUNG
CB 6-1 181 22



46 H. EDWARDS
CB 6-0 190 26



50 GUY MORRISS
C 6-4 255 29

51 REGGIE WILKES
LB 6-4 230 24

52 RAY PHILLIPS
LB 6-4 230 26

55 F. LeMASTER
LB 6-2 238 28

56 JERRY ROBINSON
LB 6-2 218 23

59 AL CHESLEY
LB 6-3 240 23

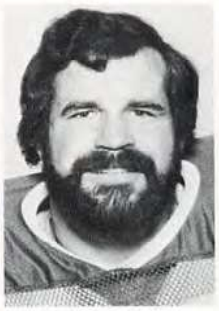
61 MARK SLATER
C 6-2 257 25

62 PETEY PEROT
G 6-2 261 23

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

63 RON BAKER
G 6-4 250 26

65 C. JOHNSON
NT 6-3 262 28



66 BILL BERGEY
LB 6-3 245 35

68 D. HARRISON
DE 6-8 280 24

69 WOODY PEOPLES
G 6-2 260 37

71 KEN CLARKE
NT 6-2 260 24

73 STEVE KENNEY
T 6-4 262 24

75 STAN WALTERS
T 6-6 275 32

76 JERRY SISEMORE
T 6-4 265 29

78 CARL HAIRSTON
DE 6-3 260 28

83 RODNEY PARKER
WR 6-1 190 27

84 KEITH KREPFLE
TE 6-3 230 28

85 CHARLES SMITH
WR 6-1 185 30

87 C. HUMPHREY
DE 6-5 258 36

88 JOHN SPAGNOLA
TE 6-4 240 23

89 WALLY HENRY
WR-KR 5-8 170 26

95 JOHN BUNTING
LB 6-1 220 30

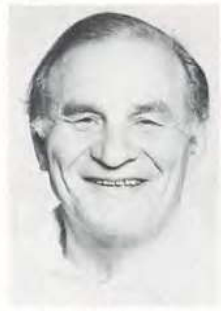
97 THOMAS BROWN
DE 6-4 240 23

FRED BRUNEY
Assistant Coach

MARION CAMPBELL
Assistant Coach

CHUCK CLAUSEN
Assistant Coach

DICK COURY
Assistant Coach



SID GILLMAN
Assistant Coach

GEORGE HILL
Assistant Coach

KEN IMAN
Assistant Coach

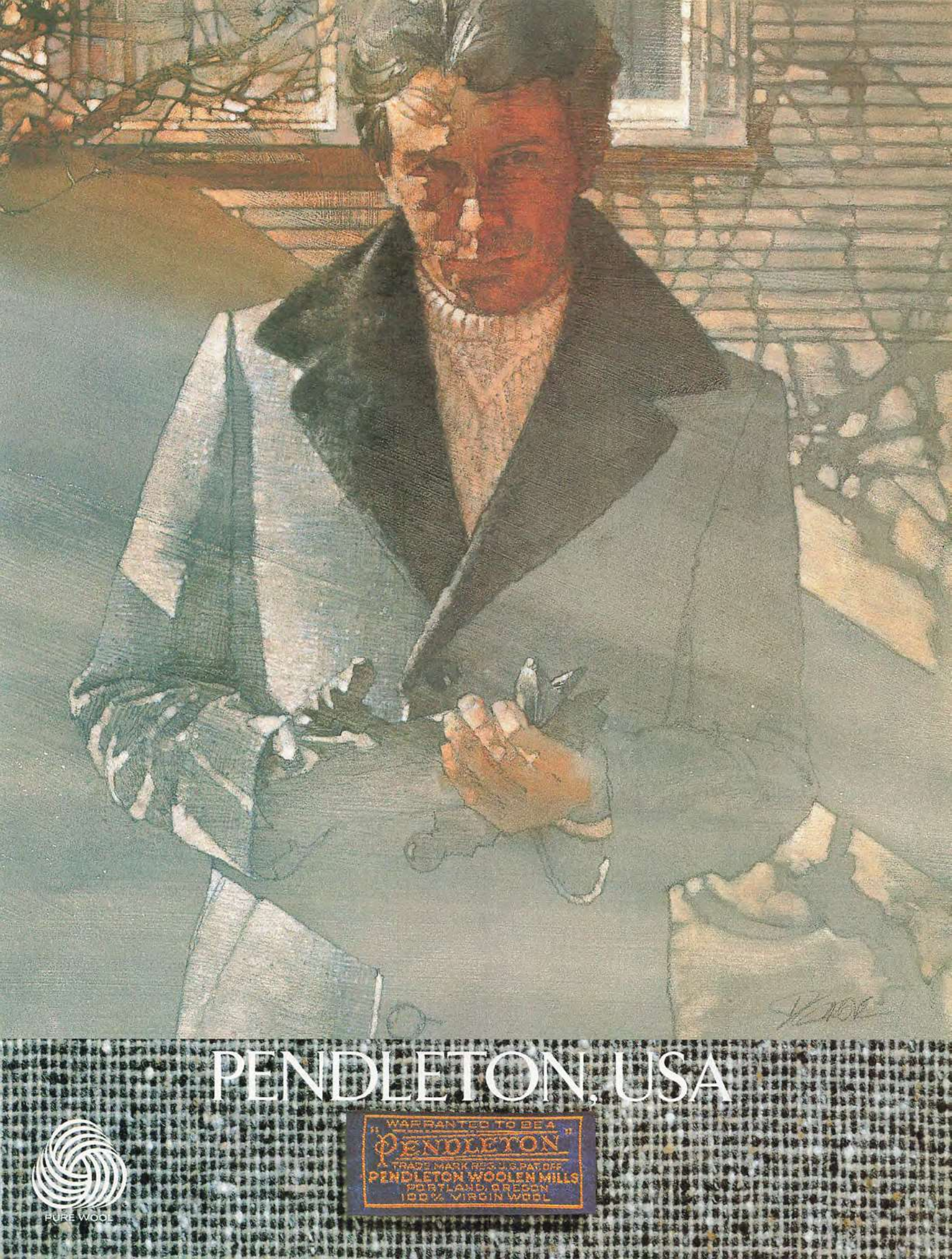
BILLY JOE
Assistant Coach

LYNN STILES
Assistant Coach

JERRY WAMPFLER
Assistant Coach

OTHO DAVIS
Trainer

RUSTY SWEENEY
Equipment Manager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The game was primarily in the air, but even the new rules of thumb were broken as the NFL began the decade.

The 61st Year

By Ted Brock

This time it wasn't so much parity as paradox.

After 232 games, regular season and postseason combined, the number of winning teams equaled the number of losing teams, 232. Today's game makes 233. More of the same.

But *how*?

Start with a stunning piece of machinery, the San Diego Chargers, built expressly, it would appear, for the airborne 1980s. At the end of the first 10 weeks of the regular season, the Chargers' offense had rolled up a total of 4,067 net yards, 2,949 of it passing. Their record stood at 6-4. They were second in their division. Oakland, a "team in transition" that had lost its prized passer well before midseason and now was improvising with an 11 year claimer at quarterback, held the lead at 7-3.

Transition and its handmaiden, injury, were the themes struck in the AFC Central, where four-time Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh stumbled out of October with one victory to show for a month's worth of wounded starters. More imposing, by week 10 the Steelers were one game out of first place, trailing not one but two division rivals, Houston and Cleveland. Then, staring into a chasm marked "6-5 and out," Pittsburgh defeated Cleveland with a touchdown pass from Terry Bradshaw to Lynn Swann in the final seconds of week 11.

New England's hopes to dominate in the AFC East got a serious jolt from Buffalo, which took or shared the lead much of the way. The Bills lived by the pass, but not entirely, showing off a penchant for spotting talent via the draft, in the person of rookie running back Joe Cribbs.

The Bills had no corner on young offensive flash. Other productive and promising newcomers included running backs Curtis Dickey of Baltimore, Vagas Ferguson of New England, and Charles White of Cleveland. Through the air, quarterback David Woodley of Miami and wide receiver Ray Butler of Baltimore left a positive early impression. Up front, tackle Anthony Munoz of Cincinnati (third choice in the draft) and guard Tyrone McGriff of Pittsburgh (333rd and last pick of 1980) stepped into key starting positions.

Carl Roaches, Houston's Lilliputian return man, was the hot new specialist in the AFC. Defensively, the conference's rookie standouts included end Jacob Green of Seattle, linebacker Matt Millen of Oakland, and cornerback Roland James of New England.

The NFC picture nearly matched the AFC in the enigma department. Los Angeles did its best to emulate its jagged ascent to Super Bowl XIV by starting slowly, building to 6-3, and then relinquishing the NFC West lead to Atlanta in week 10. In the East, Washington absented itself from playoff contention almost from the start, leaving Philadelphia and Dallas to dominate the race. The Eagles assumed the role of frontrunner.

For resurgence, though, no team was more proficient than Detroit, which bolted to the lead in the NFC Central. The Lions made the most of the league's number one selection in the 1980 draft, running back Billy Sims. But by the eleventh week, Minnesota had drawn even with the Lions.

San Francisco also made a wise choice in the 1980 draft, albeit not from the lofty ranks of the Heisman contenders. The 49ers acquired running back Earl Cooper from Rice, and by midseason he had 48 receptions and 363 yards rushing, a mirror of head coach Bill Walsh's thoroughly modern pass-oriented offense.

Wide receiver Art Monk of Washington and tight end Junior Miller of Atlanta began their careers as instant starters. Monk enjoyed the status of a minor anomaly, being the Redskins' first first round choice since 1968.

The defensive backfield was another bastion of rookie talent in the NFC, with Johnnie Johnson of Los Angeles, Ricky Churchman of San Francisco, and Roynell Young of Philadelphia stepping right in.

The NFL kaleidoscope, despite its near-completion in terms of scheduled competition, still hasn't shaken itself into focus. The edges are clear, but some pieces are out of place, and one or two may be found on the Superdome floor. Today's action is certain to provide the major resolution. For a look at the background, turn the page.

Week One

SEPTEMBER 7: THE NEW DECADE FINDS ITS LEGS

Meet Billy Sims.

The Los Angeles Rams already have, to their chagrin. This week they established a nodding relationship with the NFL's number one draft choice for 1980—nodding and waving, as it were, as he went by.

Sims ran for 153 yards and scored three touchdowns as his team, the Detroit Lions, sprang from the throes of a miserable 1979 season (2-14) to upset the NFC's Super Bowl XIV representative by a 41-20 margin.

There's reason to believe the Rams' defensive unit is playing in another time frame, due to a prolonged holdout by three of its Pro Bowl performers, tackle Larry Brooks, end Jack Youngblood, and linebacker Jim Youngblood. Those three, along with guard Dennis Harrah, joined the club only a week before the opener. To compound the team's misery, starting linebacker Bob Brudzinski staged a walkout of his own, returning the day before the opener. All five are eager for the same thing: contract renegotiation.

To add to the Rams' misery, quarterback Pat Haden caught the index finger of his passing hand on tackle Doug France's shoulder pad and broke the metacarpal bone. He'll be out for at least four weeks, occasioning a temporary solution to this year's version of the Los Angeles quarterback controversy. The starting job now goes to Vince Ferragamo, who took over when Haden was injured in week nine of 1979 and led the club to the Super Bowl.

The Lions' upset of the Rams was one of several opening day surprises. San Francisco, the league's other 2-14 team last year, benefited from Russell Erxleben's inability to hit a 33-yard field goal as time ran out. The 49ers beat New Orleans 26-23, Ray Wersching's 37-yard field goal providing the winning margin. The game also showcased the talents of San Francisco's first choice in the first round of this year's draft, running back Earl Cooper, who scored on runs of one and six yards, ran for 77 yards on 17 carries, and caught 10 passes for 71 yards.

Meanwhile, Atlanta lost to Minnesota 24-23 when Rick Danmeier kicked a 27-yard field goal with 25 seconds left; as a result, the 49ers begin the 1980s as the pacesetters in the NFC West . . . for a week, anyway.

Baltimore and Buffalo jumped the New York Jets and Miami, two more unexpected events. Steve Mike-Mayer's 46-yard field goal at the midpoint of the fourth quarter was the difference in the Colts' victory, and Bert Jones solved the Jets' secondary for 257 yards passing. In Buffalo, the Bills shook loose a string of 20 straight losses to Miami, winning 17-7. "Expect a call from O.J. [Simpson] tonight," said guard Reggie McKenzie, spiritual leader of the Electric Company, the offensive line that used to pave the way for the The Juice. "He'll say, 'Ah, you suckers did it.' We just kept pounding them and and pounding them and finally, near the end, they broke." The pounding resulted in a 14-point fourth quarter, capped by a two-yard touchdown run by rookie running back Joe Cribbs, a second round draft pick.

The New York Giants' victory over St. Louis came as a mild jolt. Phil Simms and Earnest Gray revived their passing combination for four touchdowns as the Giants spoiled Jim Hanifan's head coaching debut.

Another upset took place in Green Bay, where the Packers beat Chicago in overtime. Six minutes into the sudden death period, placekicker Chester Marcol retrieved his own blocked field goal and ran 25 yards for a touchdown and a 12-6 victory.

"To win on opening day after what we did or didn't do in the preseason [the Packers scored 17 points en route to an 0-5 preseason record], I don't know how you can describe it," said Packers head coach Bart Starr. There are some who would describe it as a reprieve for Starr's coaching career.

"I'm sure it won't sink in until tomorrow, because it was one we really needed to win," Marcol said. "We were embarrassed. When you're warming up before the game and they're throwing hot dogs at you from the stands, it's pretty tough to swallow."

Marcol's gastronomic pun had its origins in an incident involving Packers defensive end Ezra Johnson, who had been fined $1,000 by the club for eating a hot dog on the bench while Green Bay was losing a preseason game to Denver 38-0. Johnson had questioned the fairness of the fine, saying, "It would have been different if I had eaten that thing because we were losing or because of disrespect. I ate it because I was hungry."

NEWSMAKERS

Bussey

Ray

Simms

Detroit's **Dexter Bussey**, now part of a powerful rushing tandem with rookie **Billy Sims**, gained 111 yards on 14 carries in a victory over Los Angeles. Rookie safety **Darrol Ray** of the New York Jets picked up a fumble and weaved 75 yards for a touchdown to tie Baltimore 14-14 in the fourth quarter, but the Colts won with a late field goal. **Phil Simms** of the New York Giants led a 41-35 victory over St. Louis, passing for 280 yards and 5 touchdowns, 4 of them to wide receiver **Earnest Gray**. Running back **John Cappelletti** of San Diego led all AFC rushers with 112 yards as the Chargers beat Seattle. Minnesota placekicker **Rick Danmeier** hit a 27-yard field goal with 25 seconds to play, giving the Vikings a 24-23 victory over Atlanta. Minnesota's **Tommy Kramer** passed for 395 yards and 3 touchdowns and led the 69-yard drive in the final three minutes that set up Danmeier's field goal. "That's Fran Tarkenton still playing," said Falcons quarterback **Steve Bartkowski**. "He watched and learned the game from the master." Green Bay's **Chester Marcol** had a field goal blocked in overtime against Chicago but picked it up and ran for the winning touchdown in a 12-6 victory.

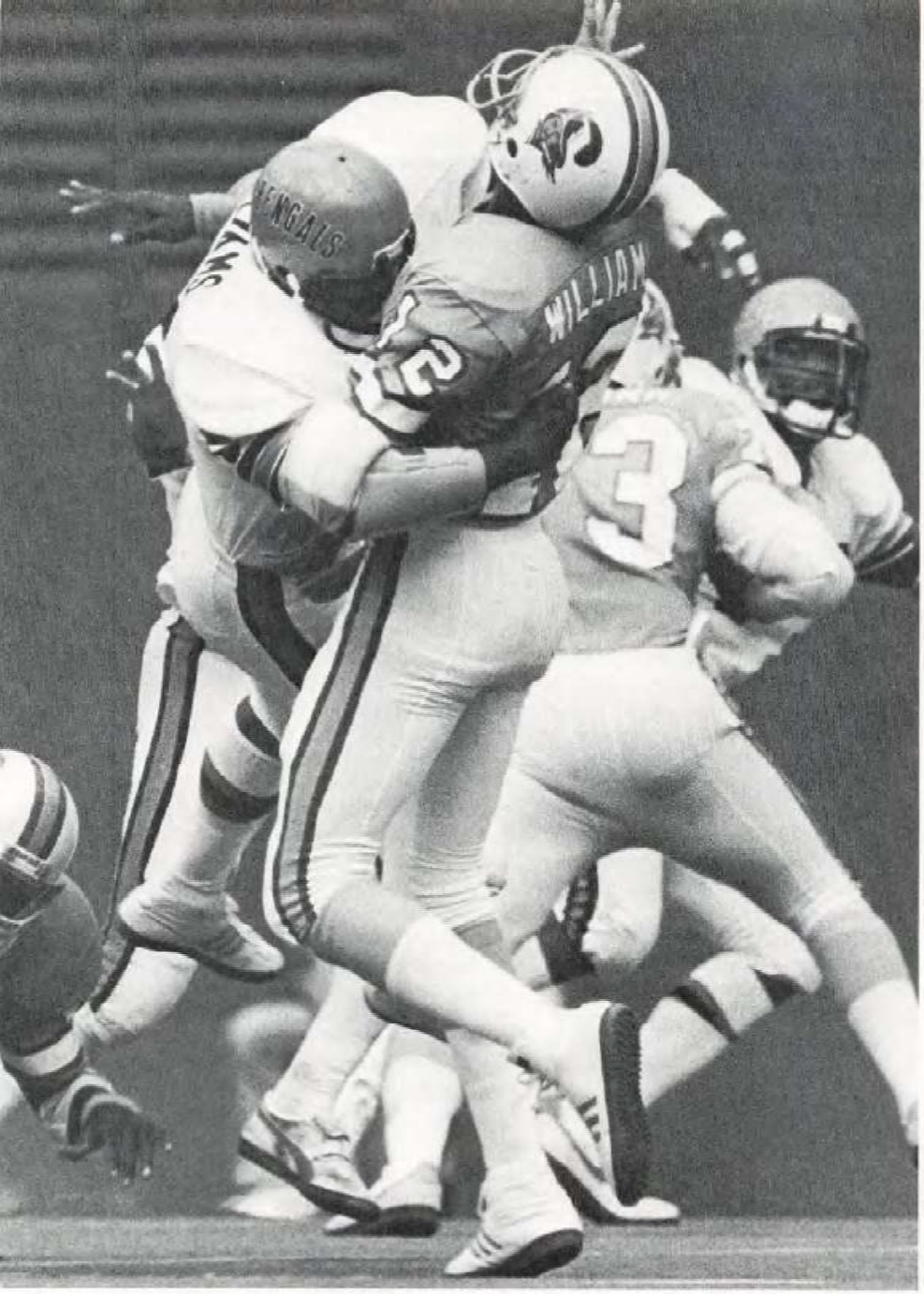
STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Baltimore	1	0	0	1.000	17	14
Buffalo	1	0	0	1.000	17	14
New England	1	0	0	1.000	34	17
Miami	0	1	0	.000	7	17
N.Y. Jets	0	1	0	.000	14	17
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	1.000	31	17
Cincinnati	0	1	0	.000	12	17
Cleveland	0	1	0	.000	17	34
Houston	0	1	0	.000	17	31
AFC West						
Oakland	1	0	0	1.000	27	14
San Diego	1	0	0	1.000	34	13
Denver	0	1	0	.000	6	27
Kansas City	0	1	0	.000	14	27
Seattle	0	1	0	.000	13	34
NFC East						
Dallas	1	0	0	1.000	17	3
N.Y. Giants	1	0	0	1.000	41	35
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	27	6
St. Louis	0	1	0	.000	35	41
Washington	0	1	0	.000	3	17
NFC Central						
Detroit	1	0	0	1.000	41	20
Green Bay	1	0	0	1.000	12	6
Minnesota	1	0	0	1.000	24	23
Tampa Bay	1	0	0	1.000	17	12
Chicago	0	1	0	.000	6	12
NFC West						
San Francisco	1	0	0	1.000	26	23
Atlanta	0	1	0	.000	23	24
Los Angeles	0	1	0	.000	20	41
New Orleans	0	1	0	.000	23	26

SCORES

American Football Conference
Baltimore 17, New York Jets 14
Buffalo 17, Miami 7
New England 34, Cleveland 17
Oakland 27, Kansas City 14
Pittsburgh 31, Houston 17
San Diego 34, Seattle 13
National Football Conference
Dallas 17, Washington 3
Detroit 41, Los Angeles 20
Green Bay 12, Chicago 6, overtime
Minnesota 24, Atlanta 23
New York Giants 41, St. Louis 35
San Francisco 26, New Orleans 23
Interconference Games
Philadelphia 27, Denver 6
Tampa Bay 17, Cincinnati 12
NFC, 2 victories; AFC, 0 victories

► Clockwise from top left: *For the first dance of the 1980 season, Bengals linebacker Reggie Williams chooses his namesake, Buccaneers quarterback Doug. Reggie makes an impression, but Tampa Bay wins the opener 17-12. The sequence from Green Bay's 12-6 overtime victory over Chicago shows how Packers placekicker Chester Marcol retrieves a blocked field goal attempt and turns ball carrier for the decisive 25-yard touchdown run. Buffalo head coach Chuck Knox gets a victory ride following the Bills' 17-7 victory over Miami. Charles Romes's raised index finger has extra meaning; it marks the Bills' first win over the Dolphins since 1969. Detroit unveils its vehicle for the 1980s, running back Billy Sims, in a 41-20 upset of Los Angeles.*



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Week Two

SEPTEMBER 11: COMPETITION AS USUAL: SURREAL, SURPRISING

When watching Oakland versus San Diego, reserve massive amounts of energy and concentration for the final two minutes. This axiom has held since the early days of the AFL and has seen bizarre renewals over the last two or three seasons. The storied Stabler-Banaszak-Casper forward fumble exchange that gave the Raiders a victory over the Chargers in a 1978 game is a recent example of commonplace behavior in this rivalry.

Now add this one: With the Raiders trailing 24-17 in the final minute and driving toward the Chargers' goal, quarterback Dan Pastorini was sacked and forced to leave the game with a minor injury. Backup man Jim Plunkett came in and with 33 seconds left threw an 18-yard touchdown pass to Raymond Chester, whose leaping catch between two defenders sent the game into overtime.

Eight minutes into the extra period, the Chargers had the ball, third and 11, at the Oakland 24. Chargers head coach Don Coryell called for a field goal by Rolf Benirschke.

Nobody got the message. Amid the din and cacophony that make San Diego Stadium an accoustical nightmare, two of Coryell's assistants had overridden him. Offensive coordinator Joe Gibbs had called offensive line coach Dave Levy from the press box with the play that would beat the Raiders, a pass from Dan Fouts to John Jefferson. The wide receiver stretched for the ball and fell at the 2 yard line with cornerback Lester Hayes standing over him. Realizing that Hayes, frozen, had made no contact, Jefferson rolled into the end zone with the winning touchdown.

Coryell didn't mind the communications mishap. "They never heard me talking [through the headsets]," he said. "They decided to take a shot and they hit it. I feel great."

Elsewhere in the AFC West, the Denver Broncos were exorcising a spell that had haunted them through four regular season games and Super Bowl XII. For the first time, they defeated the Dallas Cowboys, 41-20. "Matt Robinson used his head and made some big plays," said Denver head coach Red Miller, reversing last week's assessment of the quarterback he acquired from the New York Jets in the offseason.

Seattle also evened its record with a 17-16 victory over Kansas City, leaving three clubs tied for second in the division at 1-1 behind the 2-0 Chargers. The Seahawks were able to hold off the Chiefs by maintaining possession for the last five minutes. Kansas City coach Marv Levy, faced with the possibility of a 62- or 63-yard field goal attempt on the Chiefs' final possession, elected to punt and go for better field possession on an exchange. It never came.

Buffalo honored O.J. Simpson with a special day, trotting him onto the field in full gear as a prelude to defeating the New York Jets 20-10. The matchup was *a propos*, because O.J. had set his near-mythic single season rushing record, 2,003 yards, against the Jets in 1973.

The victory left the Bills at the top of the AFC East with a 2-0 record. Their first victims, the Miami Dolphins, used a spontaneous gambit by head coach Don Shula to defeat Cincinnati 17-16. With 6:21 to play, Bengals linebacker Reggie Williams tackled Miami quarterback Don Strock in the Dolphins' end zone for a safety and a 16-7 lead. Miami lined up for its free kick, and punter George Roberts conferred with Shula on the sideline.

"He was telling me about getting enough hang time on the kick," Roberts said. "In the next breath, he said, 'Hey, how about the onside kick?' It was a great call." The reason it was a great call was that the Dolphins recovered, marched for a touchdown, and later added a field goal by Uwe von Schamann.

Sixteen to seven was an exciting score when Joe Namath and the New York Jets upset Baltimore in Super Bowl III. Sixteen to seven was a boring score when Ken Stabler and the Houston Oilers trudged past Cleveland in the nationally televised Monday night game to conclude week two of 1980. Running back Earl Campbell was rested most of the second half with mouth problems and a groin pull. Houston's stifling secondary eliminated the Browns' possibilities of throwing deep. Even Gifford, Meredith, and Cosell couldn't rescue this one from their vantage point high atop Cleveland Stadium. Maybe President Carter had struck the mood of the day when, campaigning at a $2,500-a-plate luncheon in Houston, he referred to the Oilers' quarterback as "Statler."

NEWSMAKERS

Hofer

Miller

Murray

Durable San Francisco running back **Paul Hofer** was the main man in a 24-21 overtime victory over St. Louis, carrying 14 times for 89 yards and 1 touchdown and catching 9 passes for 135 yards and another score. **Junior Miller**, Atlanta's rookie tight end and a first round draft choice, caught 8 passes for 117 yards and 2 touchdowns in the Falcons' victory over New England. Detroit placekicker **Ed Murray** was consistent from medium range, hitting field goals from 23, 32, 39, 42, and 43 yards in a victory over Green Bay. Murray, a rookie from Tulane, has yet to miss in 7 field goal attempts this season. Kansas City placekicker **Nick Lowery** hit field goals of 23, 50, and 57 yards, the latter a club record, in the Chiefs' loss to Seattle. Buffalo safety **Jeff Nixon** went 50 yards for a touchdown with his fourth interception in two games, helping the Bills defeat the New York Jets. Denver safety **Bill Thompson** established an NFL record with his fourth career fumble return for a touchdown as the Broncos defeated Dallas for the first time in a regular season game. The 32-yard score gave Denver a 24-7 lead in the second quarter. "It helped us keep the momentum," Thompson said.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	2	0	0	1.000	37	17
Baltimore	1	1	0	.500	34	34
Miami	1	1	0	.500	24	33
New England	1	1	0	.500	55	54
N.Y. Jets	0	2	0	.000	24	37
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	2	0	0	1.000	51	34
Houston	1	1	0	.500	33	38
Cincinnati	0	2	0	.000	28	34
Cleveland	0	2	0	.000	24	50
AFC West						
San Diego	2	0	0	1.000	64	37
Denver	1	1	0	.500	47	47
Oakland	1	1	0	.500	51	44
Seattle	1	1	0	.500	30	50
Kansas City	0	2	0	.000	30	44
NFC East						
Philadelphia	2	0	0	1.000	69	13
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	37	44
N.Y. Giants	1	1	0	.500	62	58
Washington	1	1	0	.500	26	38
St. Louis	0	2	0	.000	56	65
NFC Central						
Detroit	2	0	0	1.000	70	27
Tampa Bay	2	0	0	1.000	27	21
Chicago	1	1	0	.500	28	15
Green Bay	1	1	0	.500	19	35
Minnesota	1	1	0	.500	31	65
NFC West						
San Francisco	2	0	0	1.000	50	44
Atlanta	1	1	0	.500	60	45
Los Angeles	0	2	0	.000	29	51
New Orleans	0	2	0	.000	26	48

SCORES

American Football Conference

Buffalo 20, New York Jets 10
Houston 16, Cleveland 7
Miami 17, Cincinnati 16
Pittsburgh 20, Baltimore 17
San Diego 30, Oakland 24, overtime
Seattle 17, Kansas City 16

National Football Conference

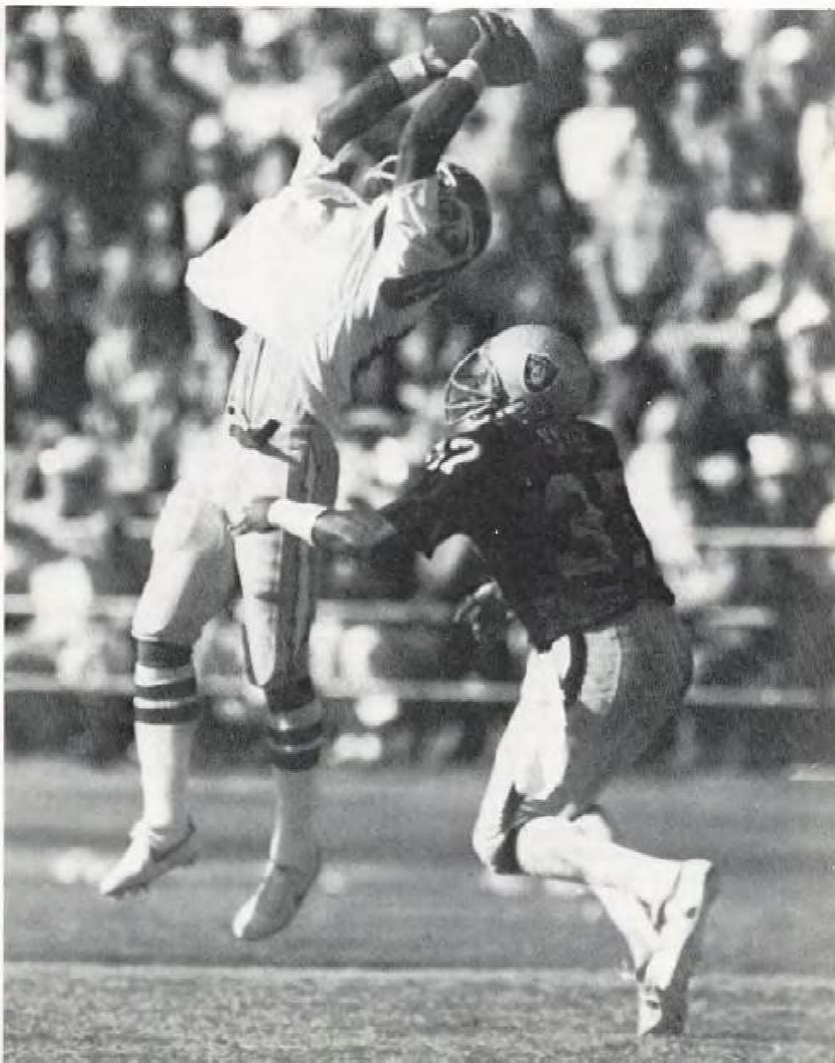
Chicago 22, New Orleans 3
Detroit 29, Green Bay 7
Philadelphia 42, Minnesota 7
San Francisco 24, St. Louis 21, overtime
Tampa Bay 10, Los Angeles 9
Washington 23, New York Giants 21

Interconference Games

Atlanta 37, New England 21
Denver 41, Dallas 20

NFC, 3 victories; AFC, 1 victory

► Clockwise from top left: *Buffalo safety Jeff Nixon returns an interception 50 yards for a touchdown as the Bills defeat the New York Jets. San Francisco running back Paul Hofer picks up yardage in the 49ers' overtime victory over St. Louis. Hofer had 224 yards total. San Diego's John Jefferson takes a 24-yard touchdown pass from Dan Fouts, then leaves Oakland's Lester Hayes motionless, slipping into the end zone untouched for a 30-24 overtime victory. Miami placekicker Uwe von Schamann signals the decisive points in the Dolphins' victory over Cincinnati as his 39-yard field goal ends a 17-point fourth quarter rally. Denver's 41-20 upset of Dallas included safety Bill Thompson's fourth career touchdown on a fumble return, an NFL record.*



Week Three

SEPTEMBER 21: SOME RESURRECT, OTHERS RETREAT

Andy Morse of Berkeley, California, is a little angry, but he'll let it go. Shortly before the opening of the 1980 NFL season, someone had the nerve to peel the "49er Faithful" sticker from the bumper of his Volkswagen.

But he'll gladly trade the sticker for the ecstasy that comes with the 49ers' 3-0 record, the team's best start since 1952.

And never mind the fact that San Francisco's three victims to date have a combined 1980 record of 0-9. This week they defeated the New York Jets, a club considered a solid contender in the AFC East before the season began. The score was 37-27, but the 49ers went into the fourth quarter with a 30-6 advantage. The remainder of the game featured the denouement of the Richard Todd Talent Hour, as the Jets' quarterback threw three touchdown passes in the process of breaking George Blanda's 16-year-old single-game completion record of 37, set while Blanda was with Houston of the AFL. Todd was 42 for 59 for 447 yards.

Meanwhile, Steve DeBerg shared the 49ers' quarterbacking chores with backup Joe Montana. For the second week, DeBerg played with an amplifying device strapped to his back, designed to compensate for a bruised larynx. Each man completed two touchdown passes, and they combined for 240 yards through the air.

Los Angeles got into the win column with a 51-21 victory over Green Bay, aided by long interception returns by Rod Perry and Johnnie Johnson (a club record 99 yards) and three touchdown passes by Vince Ferragamo.

Meanwhile, the other half of the NFC West was being held in check by two resurgent forces from the AFC East. Miami (2-1) defeated Atlanta (1-2) with a late field goal, and Buffalo (3-0) blew past New Orleans (0-3) 35-26.

Buffalo's victory was especially pleasing to former Saint Conrad Dobler. The Bills' guard got a game ball for his performance, as did quarterback Joe Ferguson, who completed 22 of 31 passes for 295 yards and three touchdowns.

Philadelphia continued to dominate the NFC East, not to mention the football imagination of its home city. The Eagles haven't had a 3-0 start for almost as long as the 49ers; the last time was 1954. So far this season, Philadelphia has outscored its opponents by a combined count of 104-16.

It's not as if the Eagles need incentive to stay on top. Dallas beat Tampa Bay 28-17 to stay one game behind at 2-1. But Cowboys head coach Tom Landry waxed skeptical after the victory. "We've got too many young guys in the secondary for me to feel comfortable out there," he said.

Washington (1-2) and St. Louis (0-3) rounded out the division, the Redskins losing 24-21 in a lackluster performance against Oakland. The Washington ground game could muster only 84 yards.

The Cardinals, meanwhile, became the third victim of the new force in the NFC Central, Detroit. The disappointment in the Lions' 20-7 victory was that Billy Sims, with 95 yards, failed to become the first rookie running back in NFL history to rush for 100 yards in his first three games. Sims, however, did score a seven-yard touchdown that climaxed the Lions' time-consuming insurance drive in the fourth quarter.

Chicago's slippage from contender status, or at least from the role of division favorite it enjoyed among many preseason sages, continued this week in a 34-14 loss to Minnesota. The Vikings held Walter Payton to 39 yards in 16 carries, and the Bears totaled only 93 yards rushing. "We were about as inept as I've ever seen us," said head coach Neill Armstrong. "Nothing was working with the pass. Nothing was working with the run."

"They made very few mistakes and we made a bundle of them," was Pittsburgh coach Chuck Noll's succinct review of the Steelers' first loss of 1980. They were beaten 30-28 by Cincinnati. Second year quarterback Jack Thompson led the rally that brought the Bengals back from a 21-13 deficit at the end of the three quarters. Thompson threw touchdown passes to Isaac Curtis and Don Bass to put the Bengals within a point at 28-27. Then, with 2:25 to play, former Canadian Football League placekicker Ian Sunter hit a 21-yard field goal for the victory. "As the game went on," Sunter said, "it seemed like we were always one point behind. I kind of had a feeling it would come down to me. It's not every day you get an opportunity to beat the best team in the world."

NEWSMAKERS

Griese

King

Todd

Miami backup quarterback **Bob Griese** (sic), now playing behind Don Strock, rallied the club from a 17-3 fourth quarter deficit, throwing 2 touchdown passes to set up **Uwe von Schamann's** last-minute field goal that gave the Dolphins a 20-17 victory over Atlanta. Oakland's **Kenny King**, acquired in an offseason trade with Houston, rushed for 136 yards as the Raiders defeated Washington 24-21. "This is the best feeling I've had in my life. I became a veteran today," said King. New York Jets quarterback **Richard Todd** set an NFL record by completing 42 passes in the Jets' loss to San Francisco. Rookie safety **Johnnie Johnson** returned an interception 99 yards for a touchdown, a club record, as Los Angeles defeated Green Bay. His backfield mate, cornerback **Rod Perry**, did the same for 83 yards. Cleveland running back **Charles White** rushed for 59 yards and a touchdown and caught 7 passes for 100 yards and another score as the Browns defeated Kansas City. **Billy Sims** of Detroit fell 5 yards short of becoming the first rookie running back to gain 100 yards in his first three games. Sims's 95 yards in the Lions' victory over St. Louis, however, did include a seven-yard touchdown.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	3	0	0	1.000	72	43
Miami	2	1	0	.667	44	50
New England	2	1	0	.667	92	85
Baltimore	1	2	0	.333	50	55
N.Y. Jets	0	3	0	.000	51	74
AFC Central						
Houston	2	1	0	.667	54	54
Pittsburgh	2	1	0	.667	79	64
Cincinnati	1	2	0	.333	58	62
Cleveland	1	2	0	.333	44	63
AFC West						
San Diego	3	0	0	1.000	94	50
Oakland	2	1	0	.667	75	65
Denver	1	2	0	.333	60	77
Seattle	1	2	0	.333	61	87
Kansas City	0	3	0	.000	43	64
NFC East						
Philadelphia	3	0	0	1.000	104	16
Dallas	2	1	0	.667	65	61
N.Y. Giants	1	2	0	.333	65	93
Washington	1	2	0	.333	47	62
St. Louis	0	3	0	.000	63	85
NFC Central						
Detroit	3	0	0	1.000	90	34
Minnesota	2	1	0	.667	65	79
Tampa Bay	2	1	0	.667	44	49
Chicago	1	2	0	.333	42	49
Green Bay	0	3	0	.000	40	86
NFC West						
San Francisco	3	0	0	1.000	87	71
Atlanta	1	2	0	.333	77	65
Los Angeles	1	2	0	.333	80	72
New Orleans	0	3	0	.000	52	83

SCORES

American Football Conference

Cincinnati 30, Pittsburgh 28
Cleveland 20, Kansas City 13
Houston 21, Baltimore 16
New England 37, Seattle 31
San Diego 30, Denver 13

National Football Conference

Dallas 28, Tampa Bay 17
Detroit 20, St. Louis 7
Los Angeles 51, Green Bay 21
Minnesota 34, Chicago 14
Philadelphia 35, New York Giants 3

Interconference Games

Buffalo 35, New Orleans 26
Miami 20, Atlanta 17
Oakland 24, Washington 21
San Francisco 37, New York Jets 27
AFC, 4 victories; NFC, 4 victories

► Clockwise from top: *Cincinnati placekicker Ian Sunter ignores the resistance put up by Pittsburgh's Steel Curtain and follows through on a 21-yard field goal that gives the Bengals their winning margin in a 30-28 upset of the Steelers. New acquisition Kenny King picks up some of his 136 yards in the Raiders' 24-21 victory over Washington. Rod Perry's interception return of 83 yards for a touchdown, shown here, was not the longest of its kind in Los Angeles's 51-21 rout of Green Bay (Johnnie Johnson went 99 yards, a club record, with another pickoff), but Perry will take it anyway, as Nolan Cromwell sets to block Packers wide receiver Ron Cassidy. New England's Julius Adams shows one way of stopping Seattle's Jim Zorn in Patriots' 37-31 triumph.*

58
76
79

Week Four

SEPTEMBER 28: PERFECTION THRIVES IN UNEXPECTED QUARTERS

Charting a football team's tendencies can be a self-deceptive process, or it can be instructive and useful. No doubt the Miami Dolphins' 12 remaining opponents are taking no chances. Over the first quarter-season of 1980, the Dolphins have established a pattern that future foes will ignore at their own risk.

The pattern is this: Despite an opening day loss to Buffalo, the Dolphins have since won three straight. With the exception of week three, when they scored a field goal in the first quarter against Atlanta, all of Miami's points in those three victories came in the fourth period.

The Dolphins scored 17 points in the final quarter to defeat Cincinnati 17-16 in week two. They scored 17 points in the final quarter to defeat Atlanta 20-17. This week they went into the fourth quarter trailing New Orleans 16-0 and defeated the Saints 21-16.

For the second week in a row, the prime mover of the late rally was quarterback Bob Griese, formerly the engineer of victories in Super Bowls VII and VIII, now relegated to a backup role behind Don Strock. Against the Saints, Griese completed 16 of 23 passes for 241 yards in the second half. Tight end Ron Lee caught a five-yarder for a touchdown, and the Dolphins scored their other two touchdowns on short rushes by Steve Howell and Delvin Williams. The latter was a six-yard run up the middle with 2:36 remaining for the margin of victory.

The Dolphins now share second place in the AFC East with New England, which avenged a humiliating 45-10 loss to Denver in 1979 by beating the Broncos 23-14 in this week's Monday night game. The Patriots' defense overpowered the Broncos at the line of scrimmage and limited them to 108 yards rushing and a net 62 yards passing.

The AFC East leader is Buffalo at 4-0. This week the Bills dispatched the Oakland Raiders 24-7, mainly on the strength of a hard pass rush. Defensive end Ben Williams, who sacked Raiders quarterback Dan Pastorini twice and forced two Oakland fumbles, explained Buffalo's approach: "We knew we had to rush Pastorini and not let him sit back there all day. They started blocking the tight end on me, but fortunately I started taking the inside rush."

Detroit's inside rush to the top of the NFC Central has begun with four straight victories. Rookie running sensation Billy Sims rebounded from his only sub-100-yard performance of the season and gained 157 to lead a 27-7 victory over Minnesota. Quarterback Gary Danielson, who was moderately successful with 13 completions in 26 attempts for 150 yards, reflected on his club's recent turnaround (the Lions were 2-14 last year, thus obtaining the first pick in the 1980 draft, i.e., Sims). "Last year I didn't see too many media guys around," Danielson said. "I have to say I like it better this way. The attention is nice and I hope we can keep earning it."

Tampa Bay missed a chance to stay close to the Lions by losing to Cleveland 34-27. Browns quarterback Brian Sipe, who threw for 318 yards and three touchdowns, said that a 6-0 deficit in the first quarter at Tampa Stadium didn't bother him. "I looked up in the stands and saw all of this Cleveland Browns orange and I knew everything would be all right," Sipe said, referring to the sea of orange that surrounds every Buccaneers home game.

Chicago and Green Bay remained mired in the basement of the division, both thoroughly beaten by Pittsburgh (38-3) and Dallas (28-7), respectively.

Two previously unbeaten teams received their first losses this week. San Francisco scored 14 points in the fourth quarter, including a 93-yard touchdown pass from Steve DeBerg to Freddie Solomon, but Atlanta held on to defeat the 49ers 20-17. The 49ers (3-1) still have a one-game lead over the Falcons and Los Angeles, but must face the Rams next week in Anaheim.

Philadelphia also shed its unbeaten status, losing to St. Louis 24-14. The victory was Jim Hanifan's first as an NFL head coach, and he was quick to praise the outstanding rushing performance of Ottis Anderson, who gained 151 yards on 27 carries. "It was a great individual effort," said Hanifan. "It not only turned the team on, it turned the fans on as well. That was the old O.J."

As for Anderson, he deferred to Someone Else: "We just prayed and played. Finally, the Lord looked down on us and said, 'I don't want to hear your prayers anymore. Just go out and win the game.'"

NEWSMAKERS

Anderson

Kenn

Stoudt

Ottis Anderson of St. Louis turned in a 151-yard performance that included touchdowns of 14 and 37 yards as the Cardinals upset Philadelphia. Atlanta offensive tackle **Mike Kenn** once again solidified the Falcons' pass blocking in a victory over San Francisco (Falcons quarterback **Steve Bartkowski** has been sacked only 6 times in four games and has thrown 103 consecutive passes without an interception). Pittsburgh backup quarterback **Cliff Stoudt** celebrated his qualifying for the NFL pension program in week three by playing in his first NFL game in week four. The four year veteran from Youngstown State completed 5 of 8 passing attempts for 70 yards and a touchdown. The man he relieved, **Terry Bradshaw**, completed 12 of 19 passes for 217 yards and 4 touchdowns before leaving the game with 5:38 left in the third quarter. Detroit safety **Ray Oldham**, claimed on waivers from the New York Giants in the preseason, intercepted 2 passes, 1 for a 29-yard touchdown, the first of his pro career, as the Lions defeated Minnesota. Los Angeles castoff **Jim Jodat** rushed for 117 yards to help Seattle defeat Washington. In three years with the Rams, Jodat totaled 121 yards rushing.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	4	0	0	1.000	96	50
Miami	3	1	0	.750	65	66
New England	3	1	0	.750	115	99
Baltimore	2	2	0	.500	85	76
N.Y. Jets	0	4	0	.000	72	109
AFC Central						
Houston	3	1	0	.750	67	64
Pittsburgh	3	1	0	.750	117	67
Cleveland	2	2	0	.500	78	90
Cincinnati	1	3	0	.250	68	75
AFC West						
San Diego	4	0	0	1.000	118	57
Oakland	2	2	0	.500	82	89
Seattle	2	2	0	.500	75	87
Denver	1	3	0	.250	74	100
Kansas City	0	4	0	.000	50	88
NFC East						
Dallas	3	1	0	.750	93	68
Philadelphia	3	1	0	.750	118	40
N.Y. Giants	1	3	0	.250	72	121
St. Louis	1	3	0	.250	87	99
Washington	1	3	0	.250	47	76
NFC Central						
Detroit	4	0	0	1.000	117	41
Minnesota	2	2	0	.500	72	106
Tampa Bay	2	2	0	.500	71	83
Chicago	1	3	0	.250	45	87
Green Bay	1	3	0	.250	47	114
NFC West						
San Francisco	3	1	0	.750	104	91
Atlanta	2	2	0	.500	97	82
Los Angeles	2	2	0	.500	108	79
New Orleans	0	4	0	.000	68	104

SCORES

American Football Conference
Baltimore 35, New York Jets 21
Buffalo 24, Oakland 7
Houston 13, Cincinnati 10
New England 23, Denver 14
San Diego 24, Kansas City 7

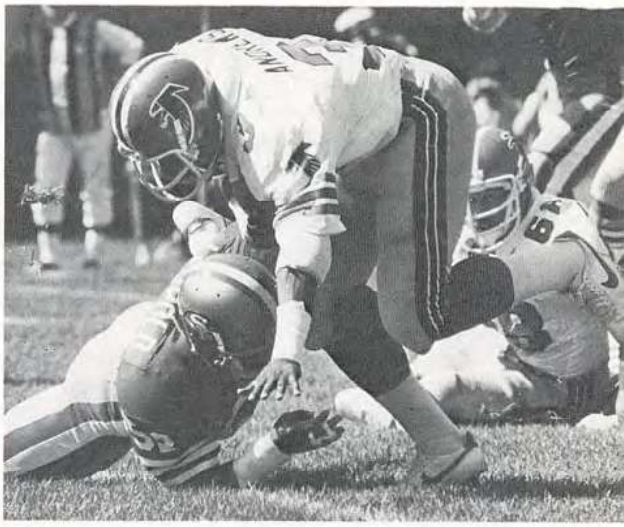
National Football Conference
Atlanta 20, San Francisco 17
Dallas 28, Green Bay 7
Detroit 27, Minnesota 7
Los Angeles 28, New York Giants 7
St. Louis 24, Philadelphia 14

Interconference Games
Cleveland 34, Tampa Bay 27
Miami 21, New Orleans 16
Pittsburgh 38, Chicago 3
Seattle 14, Washington 0
AFC, 8 victories; NFC, 4 victories

► Clockwise from top left: *Joe Cribbs's 21-yard touchdown reception nails the door shut as Buffalo defeats Oakland. Delvin Williams scores the decisive points on a six-yard run as Miami beats New Orleans. Atlanta's William Andrews is brought down by San Francisco linebacker Bobby Leopold during the Falcons' 20-17 victory over the 49ers. Safety Ray Oldham contributed this 29-yard interception return, a touchdown, as Detroit defeated Minnesota 27-7. Cowboys safety Charlie Waters upends Packers wide receiver Aundra Thompson, pass from quarterback Lynn Dickey (12, background) goes awry, Dallas beats Green Bay 28-7. Walter Payton, faced with Steelers' pursuit, reconsiders. Chicago bows to Pittsburgh 38-3.*

20

65
67
PATTON
34
56



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THOMPSON
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WATERS
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Week Five

OCTOBER 5: CENTRAL ISSUE: THE LIONS' SHARE

It used to be called the Black and Blue Division. For the first four weeks of the 1980 season, it was the Silver and Blue Division. Now you can call it the NFC Central Division.

After four weeks of newfound nirvana, the Detroit Lions suffered their first defeat of 1980. They were beaten by Atlanta. The Falcons made it their first order of business to arrest Billy Sims, who entered the game with 539 yards and a solid lead in the NFL rushing statistics.

Sims finished the game with 21 yards on 14 carries. "Atlanta is just a good defensive team," he said. "They were well prepared and keying on me." Sims's longest run of the day was eight yards.

The Falcons outscored the Lions 17-3 in each of the first two quarters for a 34-6 halftime lead. In the first period, both their touchdowns came from the defense—a 16-yard run by strong safety Frank Reed with a blocked punt, and rookie linebacker Buddy Curry's 30-yard run with a recovered fumble. Linebacker Joel Williams ran 42 yards with a recovered fumble for another score before intermission, then tackled Lions quarterback Gary Danielson in the end zone for a safety in the third quarter.

The Lions' loss cost them no ground in the division race, since their closest pursuer, Tampa Bay, was shut out by Chicago 23-0 on Monday night. The Bears took a 3-0 halftime lead, then got a touchdown (his first in six years) from veteran quarterback Mike Phipps on a five-yard run in the third quarter.

As for the Buccaneers' lack of productivity, quarterback Doug Williams spoke the epilogue for this outing: "We knew the Bears had a pass rush and they just displayed it." Pressured all evening by Alan Page and the rest of the Bears' defensive line, Williams completed 9 of 28 passes for 89 yards.

Green Bay and Minnesota joined Chicago and Tampa Bay in a four-way tie for second place in the NFC Central. The Packers' passing game accounted for two touchdowns, enough to defeat Cincinnati 14-9. Quarterback Lynn Dickey completed 18 of 26 passing attempts for 203 yards, and James Lofton caught eight passes for 114 yards.

The Vikings had it tougher. They rallied for 14 points in the fourth quarter but lost to Pittsburgh 23-17. Steelers quarterback Terry Bradshaw apologized for any misplaced hopes on the part of Minnesota fans. "What should have been a romp turned into a close game," he said. "We should have scored forty points, but things kind of fell apart."

A collision of two undefeated teams left Buffalo at the top of the AFC East (and, at 5-0, the league's only unbeaten club) after a 26-24 victory at San Diego. Rookie running back Joe Cribbs ran three yards for the winning touchdown halfway through the fourth quarter. The Bills scored two touchdowns in the final period, both times capitalizing on San Diego mistakes.

"Coach [Chuck] Knox said at halftime that if we kept going, they would give up," Cribbs said. "We wanted to wear them down and we did." The Bills had experienced their share of mistakes earlier in the game, falling behind 24-12 over the first three quarters. They began their comeback with a 16-yard drive following San Diego punter Rick Partridge's abortive attempt to run with a high snap from center. They guaranteed the victory 3:15 later when Cribbs ran three yards for a touchdown that was set up by linebacker Jim Haslett's 17-yard interception return (to the Chargers' 21).

The Chargers' loss gave Seattle a chance to move to within a game of the division lead, and the Seahawks did it with surprising ease, defeating Houston 26-7 in the Astrodome. Jim Zorn completed touchdown passes of 22 and 24 yards to Sam McCullum as the Seahawks built a 23-0 halftime lead.

Oakland's rollercoaster season went into a grim downslope against Kansas City. Not only did the Raiders lose to the Chiefs, they lost quarterback Dan Pastorini, who is out for the season with a cracked tibia and cartilage damage in his right leg.

It was the Chiefs' first victory of the season, and it maintained a theme that seems to have prevailed in week five: scoring by defense. In the first quarter, Pastorini fumbled when hit by defensive end Dave Lindstrom, and linebacker Gary Spani recovered and ran 16 yards for a touchdown. Just before halftime, linebacker Whitney Paul stripped the ball from Raiders tight end Dave Casper and went 32 yards for the Chiefs' final points.

NEWSMAKERS

Danielson

Gradishar

Haynes

Returning from a protracted holdout, New England Patriots cornerback **Mike Haynes** ran 65 yards for a touchdown with a blocked field goal attempt as the Patriots defeated the New York Jets. Linebacker **Steve Nelson** blocked the attempt by Jets placekicker Pat Leahy; linebacker **John Zamberlin** picked it up and lateraled it to Haynes. Denver Broncos linebacker **Randy Gradishar** scored on a 93-yard interception return when a pass from Cleveland quarterback Brian Sipe bounced off Broncos linebacker **Tom Jackson** and back to Gradishar. The Broncos beat the Browns 19-16. Detroit's **Gary Danielson** was the NFL's most productive passer this week, albeit in a losing cause. Against Atlanta, Danielson completed 23 of 36 attempts for 343 yards and 3 touchdowns; **Freddie Scott** had 2 of the touchdowns (6 and 43 yards) and totaled 5 receptions for 107 yards. Chicago's **Walter Payton** gained 133 yards rushing (on 28 carries) in the Bears' Monday night shutout of Tampa Bay, the leading figure among the league's ball carriers this week. San Francisco running back **Paul Hofer** was the busiest pass receiver, catching 9 for 91 yards in the 49ers' loss to Los Angeles.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	5	0	0	1.000	122	74
New England	4	1	0	.800	136	110
Baltimore	3	2	0	.600	115	93
Miami	3	2	0	.600	82	96
N.Y. Jets	0	5	0	.000	83	130
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	4	1	0	.800	140	84
Houston	3	2	0	.600	74	90
Cleveland	2	3	0	.400	94	109
Cincinnati	1	4	0	.200	77	89
AFC West						
San Diego	4	1	0	.800	142	83
Seattle	3	2	0	.600	101	94
Denver	2	3	0	.400	93	116
Oakland	2	3	0	.400	99	120
Kansas City	1	4	0	.200	81	105
NFC East						
Dallas	4	1	0	.800	117	71
Philadelphia	4	1	0	.800	142	54
St. Louis	2	3	0	.400	127	106
N.Y. Giants	1	4	0	.200	75	145
Washington	1	4	0	.200	61	100
NFC Central						
Detroit	4	1	0	.800	145	84
Chicago	2	3	0	.400	68	87
Green Bay	2	3	0	.400	61	123
Minnesota	2	3	0	.400	89	129
Tampa Bay	2	3	0	.400	71	106
NFC West						
Atlanta	3	2	0	.600	140	110
Los Angeles	3	2	0	.600	156	105
San Francisco	3	2	0	.600	130	139
New Orleans	0	5	0	.000	75	144

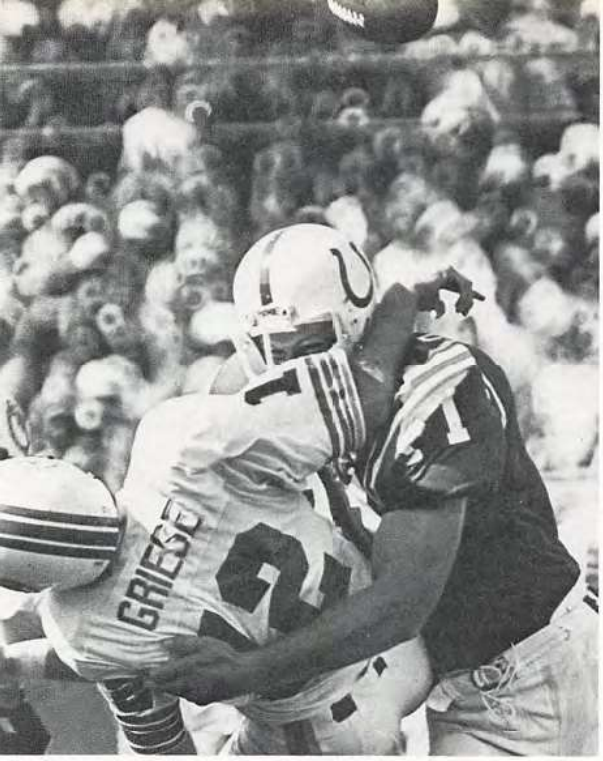
SCORES

American Football Conference
Baltimore 30, Miami 17
Buffalo 26, San Diego 24
Denver 19, Cleveland 16
Kansas City 31, Oakland 17
New England 21, New York Jets 11
Seattle 26, Houston 7

National Football Conference
Atlanta 43, Detroit 28
Chicago 23, Tampa Bay 0
Dallas 24, New York Giants 3
Los Angeles 48, San Francisco 26
Philadelphia 24, Washington 14
St. Louis 40, New Orleans 7

Interconference Games
Green Bay 14, Cincinnati 9
Pittsburgh 23, Minnesota 7
AFC, 9 victories; NFC, 5 victories

► Clockwise from top left: *Baltimore defensive end Mike Ozdowski reduces Bob Griese's passing effectiveness during Colts' 30-17 triumph over Dolphins. Nolan Cromwell's 24-yard interception return for a touchdown runs the score to 34-7, Los Angeles goes on to defeat San Francisco 48-26. The 1980 season ends for Oakland quarterback Dan Pastorini, who leaves the field with a broken right leg and cartilage damage to his knee; Raiders lose to Kansas City 31-17. Seattle has its own way with Houston, defeating the Oilers 26-7 in the Astrodome and limiting running back Earl Campbell, shown here, to 50 yards. Buffalo linebacker Jim Haslett looks for running room after intercepting Dan Fouts's errant pass during Bills' 26-24 victory over San Diego.*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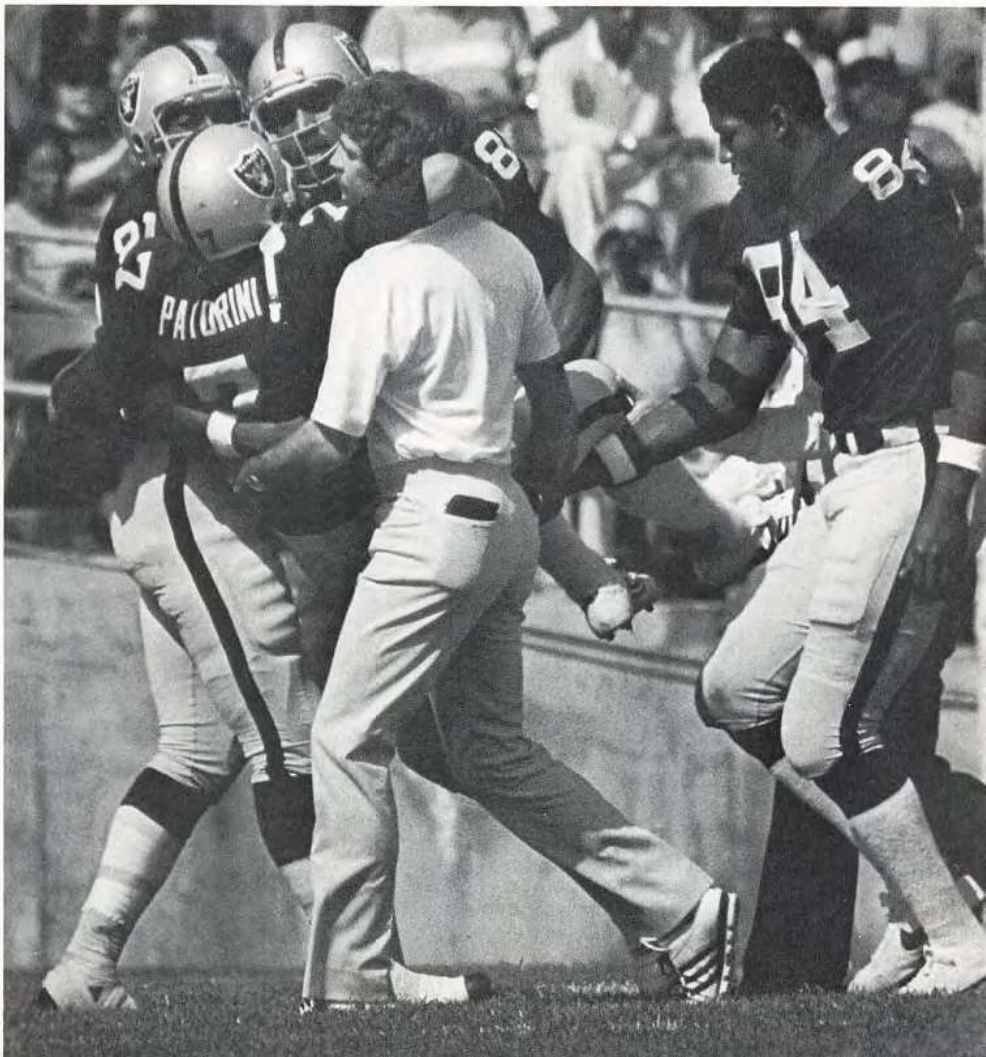

PALLARINI

Week Six

OCTOBER 12: SPOILERS HOLD ANNUAL PICNIC

There was precious little drama about it. In the rain at Buffalo, the Baltimore Colts beat the Bills 17-12. Their acknowledged leader and guiding spirit, quarterback Bert Jones, said, "I didn't have one of my best days." He blamed that on the weather. "It made it kind of tough to throw when you wanted to."

The Bills found it tough to do anything when they wanted to, a marked departure from the preceding five weeks, during which they had put together the NFL's only 5-0 record. Trailing 17-9 in the fourth quarter, with first and goal from the 5 yard line, they gained two yards in three plays and settled for a 20-yard field goal by Steve Mike-Mayer. Their last chance at victory was foiled by the Colts' nickel defense, as fifth defensive back Kim Anderson intercepted Joe Ferguson's pass in the end zone.

Jones's assessment of his freedom of choice was, he admitted, partially inaccurate. His offensive line, a sorry group in 1979, gave him excellent protection. "Offensive line is the most improved position on our team," he said. "That's three weeks in a row they haven't given up a sack."

Colts head coach Mike McCormack cited more statistics. "They know about those fifty-some sacks last year and the fact that we ranked twenty-sixth in running. It looks like we're rounding out."

The Colts now are 4-2, a game behind the Bills and the New England Patriots, who defeated Miami 34-0. It was the Dolphins' worst loss in 10 years, and coach Don Shula was at least gramatically consistent with his team's performance: "We got beat bad."

At the bottom of the AFC East, the New York Jets, one of two teams that had avoided victory in the first five weeks of 1980, defeated Atlanta 14-7, leaving New Orleans the only 0-6 team in the NFL.

The Jets led 7-0 going into the fourth quarter, but the Falcons tied the game two minutes later when Lynn Cain went one yard to finish a 74-yard drive. Midway through the period, the Falcons began another drive, but that sputtered when quarterback Steve Bartkowski fumbled at the Atlanta 38. New York had to wait out an exchange before taking the ball on the 50 and driving for its winning score, a one-yard run by Kevin Long.

The AFC West, meanwhile, is tying itself into familiar knots. Oakland got swift revenge for its overtime loss to San Diego in week two. The rejuvenated Raiders trounced the Chargers 38-24 to remain one game behind Dan Fouts and company. Kansas City and Denver also won to keep things interesting.

New Orleans played Detroit even (10-10) through three quarters, but reserve running back Rick Kane returned a kickoff 62 yards to set up a touchdown that opened the way for the Lions' 24-13 victory. Detroit stayed at least two games ahead of any of its division rivals, who were busily struggling at or below the .500 mark. Minnesota rallied in the fourth quarter, taking advantage of a fumble recovery at the Chicago 20 early in the period, to beat the Bears 13-7. Meanwhile, Tampa Bay and Green Bay were playing five quarters, finishing with a 14-14 tie, the league's first deadlock in two years.

Los Angeles worked its way clear of the rest of the NFC West by defeating St. Louis 21-13. The main feature of the game was its high rate of collision, as six Cardinals and two Rams went to the sidelines with injuries of varying degrees. In the fourth quarter, St. Louis running back Ottis Anderson (temporary disorientation) and quarterback Jim Hart (sprained thumb) left the Cardinals without their two main offensive weapons. Rams running back Elvis Peacock pulled a groin muscle early in the game, and wide receiver Billy Waddy lost his two front teeth when he was hit by John Barefield on a punt return. Barefield was the next to leave, limping off with a knee injury following a kickoff return.

San Francisco confirmed suspicion that its 3-0 start was due in large part to a soft early schedule, losing its third straight, 59-14 to Dallas. Cowboys quarterback Danny White passed for four touchdowns.

The 49ers committed 10 turnovers, 5 fumbles and 5 interceptions, off the erratic arm of quarterback Steve DeBerg.

Cowboys coach Tom Landry tempered the one-sided victory with a piece of personal philosophy. "A game like this never helps you particularly," he said. "I hate to see a score lopsided like that. But there wasn't anything I could do about it. You can't take anything away from the guys who are in there. It was just a bad, bad day."

NEWSMAKERS

Dickey

Ivery

Kane

Detroit head coach **Monte Clark** awarded a game ball to reserve running back **Rick Kane** for his 62-yard kickoff return in the fourth quarter, the play that inspired the Lions' victory over New Orleans. Kane was the man displaced by **Billy Sims**, whose 91 yards rushing against the Saints maintained his lead in the league statistics with 651. Green Bay's **Lynn Dickey** threw 51 times and completed 35 for 418 yards in the Packers' 14-14 tie with Tampa Bay. Eleven of the completions went to running back **Eddie Lee Ivery**. Houston's **Earl Campbell** was the NFL's leading rusher in week six with 178 yards in 38 carries. Campbell's play this week in a losing effort against the Chiefs leaves no doubt that he has regained the form that made him the NFL's leading rusher the past two seasons. Oakland's **Kenny King** continued to validate the Raiders' trade with Houston, rushing for 138 yards, 89 of which came on a club record touchdown run. Cleveland's **Mike Pruitt** (116 yards, 2 touchdowns), Los Angeles's **Cullen Bryant** (115 yards), and Denver's **Otis Armstrong** (107 yards, 1 touchdown), also made major contributions to their clubs' victories.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	5	1	0	.833	134	91
New England	5	1	0	.833	170	110
Baltimore	4	2	0	.667	132	105
Miami	3	3	0	.500	82	130
N.Y. Jets	1	5	0	.167	97	137
AFC Central						
Pittsburgh	4	2	0	.667	156	101
Cleveland	3	3	0	.500	121	112
Houston	3	3	0	.500	94	111
Cincinnati	2	4	0	.333	94	105
AFC West						
San Diego	4	2	0	.667	166	121
Denver	3	3	0	.500	113	133
Oakland	3	3	0	.500	137	144
Seattle	3	3	0	.500	104	121
Kansas City	2	4	0	.333	102	125
NFC East						
Dallas	5	1	0	.833	170	85
Philadelphia	5	1	0	.833	173	70
St. Louis	2	4	0	.333	140	127
N.Y. Giants	1	5	0	.167	91	176
Washington	1	5	0	.167	78	120
NFC Central						
Detroit	5	1	0	.833	169	97
Minnesota	3	3	0	.500	102	136
Green Bay	2	3	1	.417	75	137
Tampa Bay	2	3	1	.417	85	120
Chicago	2	4	0	.333	75	100
NFC West						
Los Angeles	4	2	0	.667	177	118
Atlanta	3	3	0	.500	147	124
San Francisco	3	3	0	.500	144	198
New Orleans	0	6	0	.000	88	168

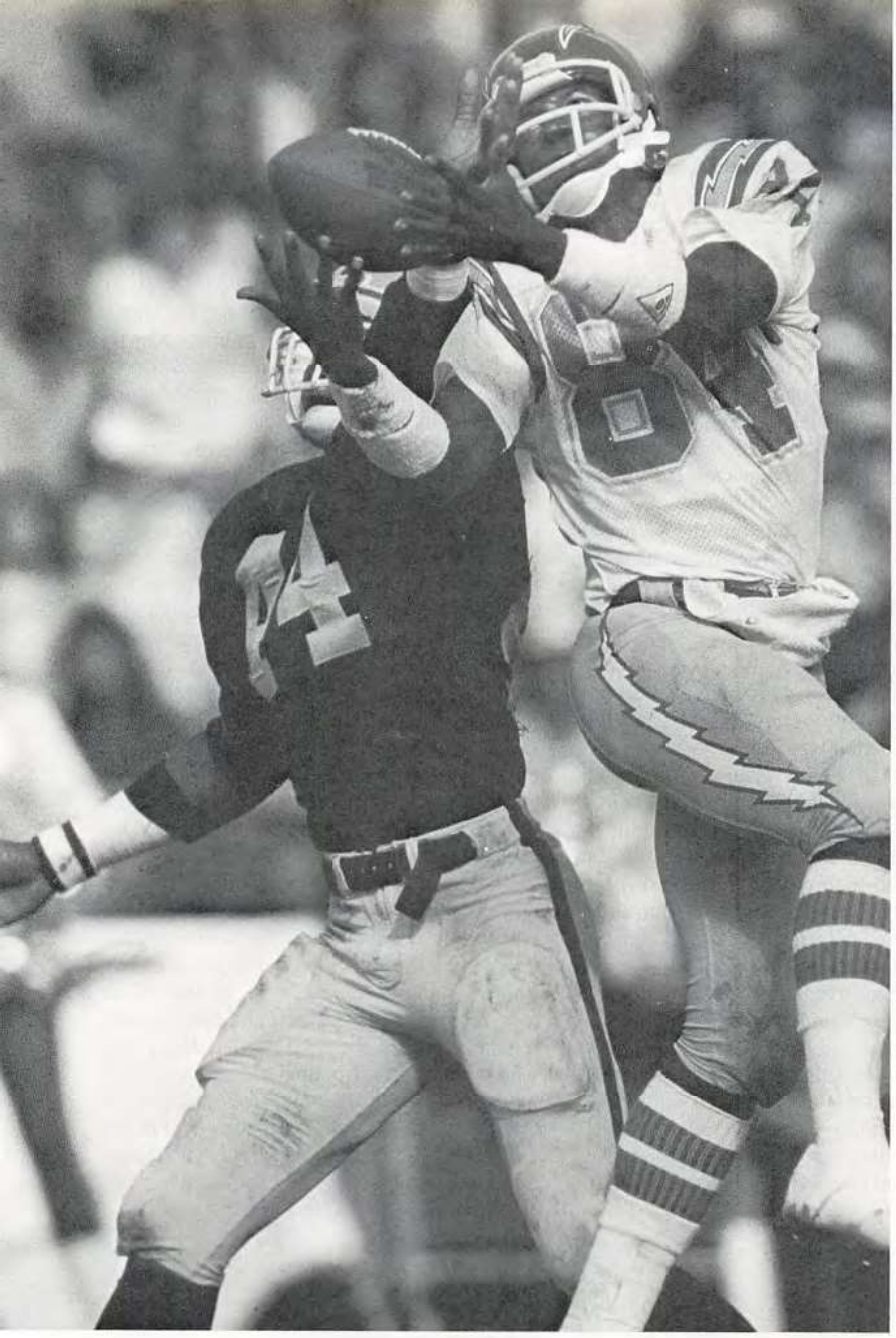
SCORES

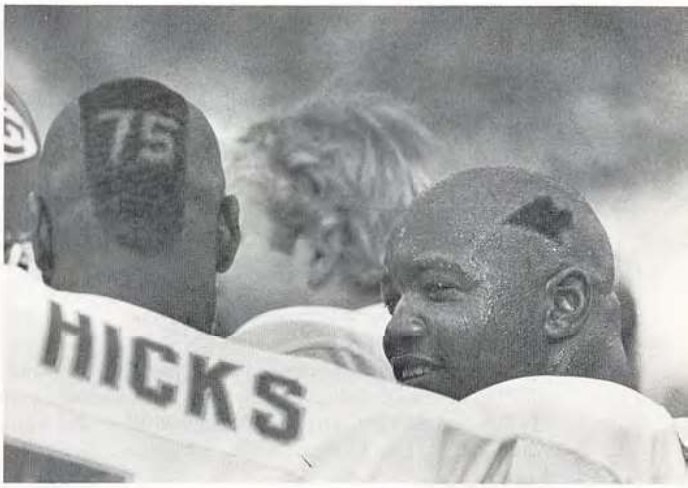
American Football Conference
Baltimore 17, Buffalo 12
Cincinnati 17, Pittsburgh 16
Cleveland 27, Seattle 3
Kansas City 21, Houston 20
New England 34, Miami 0
Oakland 38, San Diego 24

National Football Conference
Dallas 59, San Francisco 14
Detroit 24, New Orleans 13
Green Bay 14, Tampa Bay 14, overtime
Los Angeles 21, St. Louis 13
Minnesota 13, Chicago 7
Philadelphia 31, New York Giants 16

Interconference Games
Denver 20, Washington 17
New York Jets 14, Atlanta 7
AFC, 11 victories; NFC, 5 victories

► Clockwise from top left: *Oakland's Burgess Owens breaks up Dan Fouts's pass to Ron Smith as Raiders defeat San Diego 38-24. New York Giants quarterback Phil Simms manages only 91 yards passing against Philadelphia; here, he's brought to the carpet by defensive end Claude Humphrey. Eagles score an easy 31-16 victory. Kansas City's Sylvester Hicks and Don Parrish find a new way of pointing for a game, Chiefs score 21-20 victory over Houston. Seahawks defenders gang up on Browns running back Charles White as Cleveland beats Seattle 27-3. Pittsburgh linebacker Jack Ham reaches for a big armful of air as Cincinnati running back Pete Johnson goes for a 28-yard touchdown with pass from Ken Anderson. Bengals upset Steelers.*




HICKS

Week Seven

OCTOBER 19: INTERFERENCE CHARGED, STATIC ENSUES

By dint of a quirk in the complex construction of the 1980 NFL schedule, the locus of points—the epicenter—of this week's pro football tension could be traced to a 300-mile stretch of highway running across the state of Pennsylvania. That is, there were some interesting games in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

There may have been a day in the history of Philadelphia (the Eagles' NFL title in 1960? the first Constitutional Convention?) that drew more public attention than this October 19, but when? While the Phillies readied themselves for an eventual victory in game five of the World Series in Kansas City, all the city had to bide the time was a hair-pulling NFC East showdown between the Eagles and the Dallas Cowboys.

The game came down to a controversial fourth down pass by Cowboys quarterback Danny White in the final minute of play, intended for wide receiver Tony Hill in the Eagles' end zone. The play was broken up—or Hill was interfered with, depending on the version—by rookie cornerback Roynell Young, and Philadelphia held on for a 17-10 victory.

"I don't know how you can catch a ball with someone hanging on your back," Dallas coach Tom Landry said later.

"There was contact," Young said. "But I have a clear conscience because I was going for the ball."

"I thought it was offensive interference," said Philadelphia coach Dick Vermeil.

Dallas scored first when linebacker Mike Hegman recovered quarterback Ron Jaworski's fumble in the end zone. It happened in the first quarter. Jaworski was tackled by Randy White while attempting to pass. Jaworski, however, returned to throw two touchdown passes, enough for the victory.

The Dallas-Philadelphia rivalry appears to be the story in the NFC East. Washington, St. Louis, and the floundering New York Giants are all playing well below .500. This week, the Redskins shut out the Cardinals 23-0 as quarterback Joe Theismann turned in his top passing performance as a professional, 307 yards and two touchdowns.

The Giants also witnessed an overwhelming display of passing ability. In San Diego, Dan Fouts threw for 444 yards and led the Chargers to a 44-7 victory over the denizens of the Meadowlands.

But back to Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh. Monday night. Do the Oakland Raiders have a *lock* on Monday night? By defeating the world champion Steelers this week 45-34, they extended their record in the showcased game to 14-1-1, losing only to Buffalo in 1974.

This time, the Raiders balanced an excellent passing performance by Jim Plunkett with a bruising defensive effort that, among other things, sent Steelers quarterback Terry Bradshaw to the sideline three times with an assortment of shoulder and hand injuries.

Using running backs Kenny King (70 yards, including a 27-yard touchdown run) and Mark van Eeghen (52 yards, including a one-yard touchdown run) for occasional punctuation, Plunkett completed 13 of 21 passing attempts for 247 yards. He threw touchdown passes of 45 yards to Morris Bradshaw in the second quarter, 56 yards to Cliff Branch in the third quarter, and 34 yards to Branch in the final quarter.

The loss dropped the Steelers (4-3) into a three-way tie for first place in the AFC Central with Houston and Cleveland, both winners this week. It also was the first time since 1971 that Pittsburgh has lost two consecutive home games. The team that beat them last week, Cincinnati, shut out Minnesota this week. While winning 14-0, the Bengals kept the Vikings outside the 20 yard line all afternoon and limited them to 168 yards total offense.

The AFC West, meanwhile, shows signs of its customary tightening. Oakland's victory wasn't the only pressure exerted on first place San Diego (5-2) this week. Seattle also climbed above .500 by defeating the New York Jets 27-17. The Seahawks didn't start scoring touchdowns until the third quarter, when wide receiver Sam McCullum slipped into a special teams role and blocked Chuck Ramsey's punt. Jessie Green, another wide receiver, picked up the ball and ran 32 yards for the score. In the final period, Jim Zorn, who was his usual peripatetic self with 258 yards passing for the day, drove the club to two touchdowns, both short runs by Jim Jodat, a recent acquisition in a trade with talent-rich Los Angeles.

NEWSMAKERS

Bessillieu

Evans

Ivory

New England's **Horace Ivory** had a response to a go-ahead touchdown by Baltimore in the third quarter of their meeting this week. Ivory took the ensuing kickoff 98 yards for a touchdown, and the Patriots went on to win 37-21. Miami's **Don Bessillieu** chose an earlier juncture at which to break the spririt of the Buffalo Bills, picking up the first of three fumbles committed by Bills running back Joe Cribbs and racing 44 yards for the touchdown that put the Dolphins in control. Chicago quarterback **Vince Evans**, in his first start this season, led the Bears to a 24-7 victory over Detroit. He completed only 5 of 8 in the passing department, but 3 of them went to **James Scott** for a total of 140 yards, including a 64-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter and a 59-yarder that set up another score. The NFL's leading rusher this week was Houston's **Earl Campbell**, who recorded 1980's first 200-yard performance (203) in a victory over Tampa Bay. San Diego's **Charlie Joiner** caught 10 passes for 171 yards and a touchdown in the Chargers' rout of the New York Giants. Joiner's fellow wide receiver **John Jefferson** and tight end **Kellen Winslow** caught 5 and 6 passes respectively.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
New England	6	1	0	.857	207	131
Buffalo	5	2	0	.714	148	108
Baltimore	4	3	0	.571	153	142
Miami	4	3	0	.571	99	144
N.Y. Jets	1	6	0	.143	114	164
AFC Central						
Cleveland	4	3	0	.571	147	133
Houston	4	3	0	.571	114	125
Pittsburgh	4	3	0	.571	190	146
Cincinnati	3	4	0	.429	108	105
AFC West						
San Diego	5	2	0	.714	210	128
Oakland	4	3	0	.571	182	178
Seattle	4	3	0	.571	131	138
Denver	3	4	0	.429	130	156
Kansas City	3	4	0	.429	125	142
NFC East						
Philadelphia	6	1	0	.857	190	80
Dallas	5	2	0	.714	186	102
St. Louis	2	5	0	.286	140	150
Washington	2	5	0	.286	101	120
N.Y. Giants	1	6	0	.143	98	220
NFC Central						
Detroit	5	2	0	.714	176	121
Chicago	3	4	0	.429	99	107
Minnesota	3	4	0	.429	102	150
Green Bay	2	4	1	.357	96	163
Tampa Bay	2	4	1	.357	99	140
NFC West						
Los Angeles	5	2	0	.714	208	135
Atlanta	4	3	0	.571	188	138
San Francisco	3	4	0	.429	161	229
New Orleans	0	7	0	.000	102	209

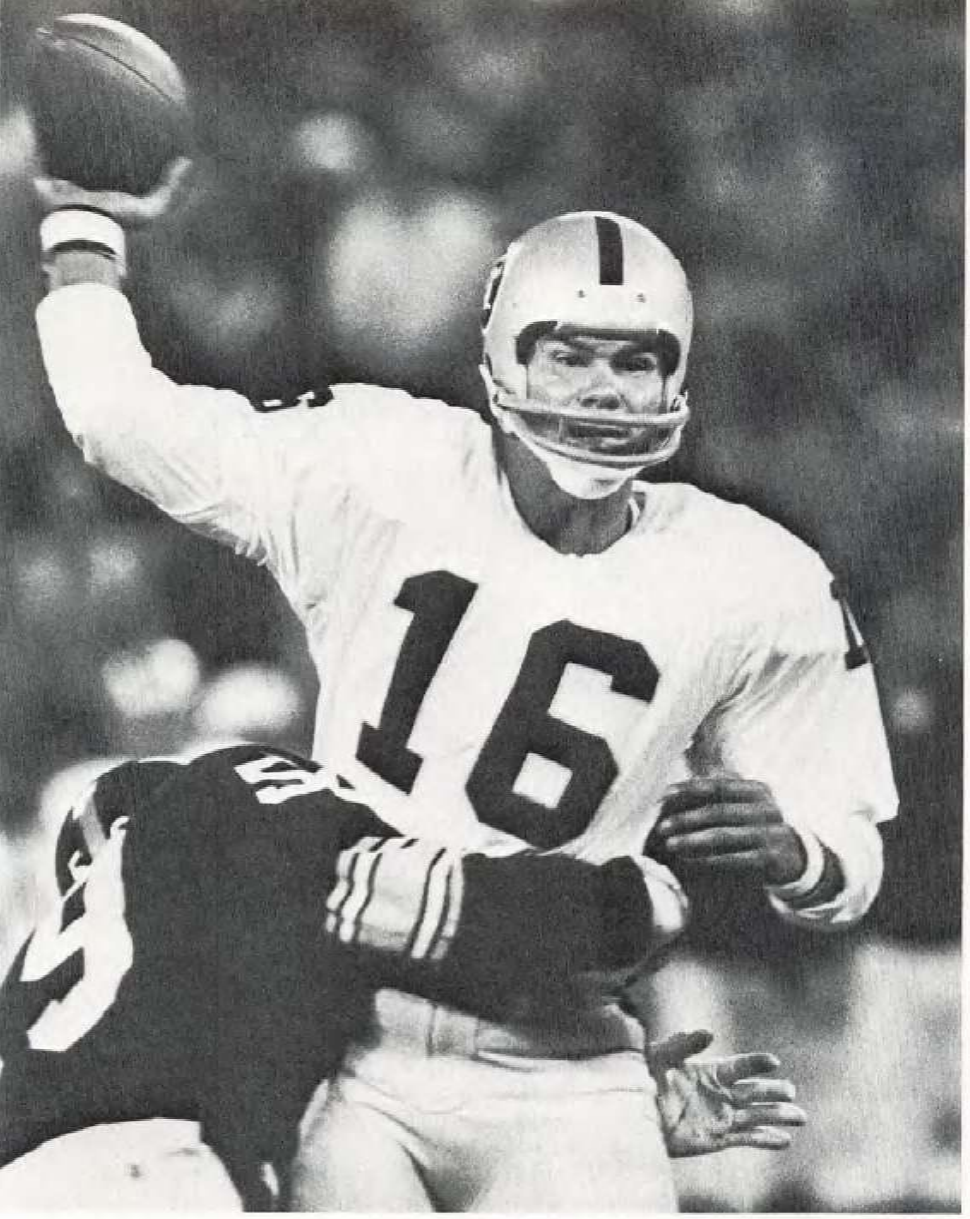
SCORES

American Football Conference
Kansas City 23, Denver 17
Miami 17, Buffalo 14
New England 37, Baltimore 21
Oakland 45, Pittsburgh 34
Seattle 27, New York Jets 17

National Football Conference
Atlanta 41, New Orleans 14
Chicago 24, Detroit 7
Los Angeles 31, San Francisco 17
Philadelphia 17, Dallas 10
Washington 23, St. Louis 0

Interconference Games
Cincinnati 14, Minnesota 0
Cleveland 26, Green Bay 21
Houston 20, Tampa Bay 14
San Diego 44, New York Giants 7
AFC, 15 victories; NFC, 5 victories

► Clockwise from top left: *Oakland quarterback Jim Plunkett, in the grasp of Pittsburgh's Jack Ham, fires anyway, and Raiders complete an upset victory over Steelers, 45-34. Chicago's Matt Suhey hurdles Detroit defensive end Dave Pureifory, among others, during Bears' 24-7 victory over Lions. A fumble in the making: Claude Humphrey descends on Dallas quarterback Danny White as Philadelphia wins showdown between NFC East leaders. Don Bessillieu has the ball and a clear path to the end zone after picking up Joe Cribbs's fumble to ignite Miami's 17-14 victory over Buffalo. Some Cleveland policemen take a break to help celebrate Dave Logan's last minute 46-yard touchdown reception in Browns 26-21 victory over Green Bay.*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Week Eight

OCTOBER 26: WEATHER REPORT FROM LAKE ERIE: SHIFTY

"I couldn't push last week out of my mind completely," said Buffalo Bills running back Joe Cribbs. "The only thing that stuck was that I just wanted to hold onto the ball."

Week to week in the NFL, there are these little tales of turnabout, vignettes of vicissitude. A week ago in Miami, Joe Cribbs's fumble in the first quarter went into the hands of the Dolphins' Don Bessillieu, who returned it for a touchdown. With that score, the Dolphins established a whip hand that lasted the afternoon.

This week, at the halfway point in the 1980 season, Cribbs rediscovered his grip and his stride. With a fumble-free 118 yards rushing, including two touchdowns in the fourth quarter, he helped the Bills defeat New England 31-13 and seize a share of the AFC East lead.

Atmospheric notes from that game include the fact that temperatures were near freezing at Buffalo's Rich Stadium and that each team scored only with the wind at its back. Buffalo enjoyed the 40 mile per hour gusts in the second and fourth quarters, scoring 14 and 17 points in those periods.

In Cleveland, the Browns also came on strong in the fourth period, scoring two touchdowns to overtake Pittsburgh 27-26. The "Blue Collar Bowl," for supremacy and bragging rights in the mining and mill belt of northeastern and western Pennsylvania, featured a four-touchdown, 349-yard passing performance (including a club record 28 completions in 46 attempts) by Browns quarterback Brian Sipe. "I'm terribly relieved," said Sipe. "It's been so long since we've beaten these guys. It's nice to know it can be done."

"It's our biggest game, without question," said Browns coach Sam Rutigliano, whose club stayed even with Houston atop the AFC Central at 5-3. "Emotionally, it's the biggest game for us since we beat Dallas in a Monday night game last season."

Oilers coach Bum Phillips joined a chorus of skeptics when he said, "I guess it proves that Cleveland's first string can beat Pittsburgh's second string." Phillips's point was that the Steelers are suffering from injuries to quarterback Terry Bradshaw (Cliff Stoudt made his first professional start against Cleveland), running back Franco Harris, linebacker Jack Lambert, and wide receivers John Stallworth and Lynn Swann.

The Oilers, incidentally, got a 202-yard performance from running back Earl Campbell, who became the second man in NFL history (the first was O.J. Simpson) to gain more than 200 yards in consecutive games. Houston defeated Cincinnati 23-3.

Another division race fell into a 5-3 deadlock at the season's midpoint. Atlanta took advantage of some major tactical errors by the Los Angeles coaching staff and beat the Rams 13-10. In the first quarter, Rams head coach Ray Malavasi accepted a five-yard illegal motion penalty, giving Falcons quarterback Steve Bartkowski a third down passing situation instead of one that dictated a field goal attempt from the 20. Bartkowski took the gift and threw a seven-yard touchdown pass to Alfred Jackson.

Late in the game, a decision to play deep against the Falcons' receivers and put limited presure on Bartkowski also backfired. Bartkowski used five plays to cover 57 yards, moving the Falcons ahead on a fourth down 54-yard pass to Jackson.

Both Philadelphia and Dallas kept winning, the Eagles maintaining their one-game lead in the NFC East by defeating Chicago 17-14. Tony Franklin kicked an 18-yard field goal with 2:02 left for the margin. Dallas's victory over San Diego included two runs from punt formation by Cowboys quarterback Danny White. When he did it in the third quarter, the decision led to a touchdown that put Dallas ahead for good at 28-24. The final score was 42-31, dropping the Chargers into a tie with Oakland (5-3) for the AFC West lead.

The Raiders defeated the Seattle Seahawks 33-14. Quarterback Jim Plunkett threw three touchdowns to Bob Chandler and placekicker Chris Bahr added four field goals.

Veterans Plunkett and Chandler, both in the twilight of their careers, came into the league as rivals with New England and Buffalo respectively. After the Seattle game, Chandler remarked, "Jim used to tear us up. He's playing like that now [after an injury-plagued hiatus with San Francisco and a waiting period behind Ken Stabler and Dan Pastorini—Ed.]. He's turned this team around and he has given us all a big lift."

NEWSMAKERS

Alexander

Greer

Moseley

Though he wasn't the week's top rusher, Detroit's **Billy Sims** augmented his lead in the NFC's ground gaining statistics with 155 yards in the Lions' loss to Kansas City. **Earl Campbell's** 202 yards, his second week over 200 (see above), made him Sunday's most productive running back.

Dan Fouts passed for 371 yards and 3 touchdowns in San Diego's loss to Dallas.

Cincinnati running back **Charles Alexander** and Baltimore wide receiver **Roger Carr** led the league's receivers this week with 9 catches each, Carr totaling 120 yards and scoring a touchdown. San Diego's **John Jefferson** was easily the most productive, catching 8 for 160 yards and a touchdown.

Mark Moseley kicked 5 field goals (28, 35, 38, 50, and 52 yards) in Washington's 22-14 victory over New Orleans.

St. Louis's defense sacked Baltimore quarterback Bert Jones 12 times in the Cardinals' 17-10 victory. "It was nothing special," said rookie defensive end **Curtis Greer**, who was credited with 4½ sacks. "We wanted to make Jones step up in the pocket and we did it early. That was the key."

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	6	2	0	.750	179	121
New England	6	2	0	.750	220	162
Baltimore	4	4	0	.500	163	159
Miami	4	4	0	.500	113	161
N.Y. Jets	2	6	0	.250	131	178
AFC Central						
Cleveland	5	3	0	.625	174	159
Houston	5	3	0	.625	137	128
Pittsburgh	4	4	0	.500	216	173
Cincinnati	3	5	0	.375	111	128
AFC West						
Oakland	5	3	0	.625	215	192
San Diego	5	3	0	.625	241	170
Denver	4	4	0	.500	144	165
Kansas City	4	4	0	.500	145	159
Seattle	4	4	0	.500	145	171
NFC East						
Philadelphia	7	1	0	.875	207	94
Dallas	6	2	0	.750	228	133
St. Louis	3	5	0	.375	157	160
Washington	3	5	0	.375	123	134
N.Y. Giants	1	7	0	.125	107	234
NFC Central						
Detroit	5	3	0	.625	193	141
Green Bay	3	4	1	.438	112	166
Tampa Bay	3	4	1	.438	123	163
Chicago	3	5	0	.375	113	124
Minnesota	3	5	0	.375	105	166
NFC West						
Atlanta	5	3	0	.625	201	148
Los Angeles	5	3	0	.625	218	148
San Francisco	3	5	0	.375	184	253
New Orleans	0	8	0	.000	116	231

SCORES

American Football Conference
Buffalo 31, New England 13
Cleveland 27, Pittsburgh 26
Houston 23, Cincinnati 3
New York Jets 17, Miami 14
Oakland 33, Seattle 14

National Football Conference
Atlanta 13, Los Angeles 10
Green Bay 16, Minnesota 3
Philadelphia 17, Chicago 14
Tampa Bay 24, San Francisco 23
Washington 22, New Orleans 14

Interconference Games
Dallas 42, San Diego 31
Denver 14, New York Giants 9
Kansas City 20, Detroit 17
St. Louis 17, Baltimore 10
AFC, 17 victories; NFC, 7 victories

► Clockwise from top left: *The sequence in the left column shows the final strides of Joe Cribbs's 16-yard touchdown run, part of a 17-point fourth quarter outburst that helps Buffalo put away New England. Earl Campbell's 202 yards make him only the second back in NFL history to gain more than 200 in consecutive games (O.J. Simpson did it in 1973 and 1976); Houston defeats Cincinnati 23-3 to retain a share of lead in the AFC Central. Tampa Bay's Jimmie Giles gets one of his two pass receptions during Buccaneers' 24-23 victory over San Francisco; Buccaneers beat 49ers on Garo Yepremian's 30-yard field goal in the final minute. Cleveland's Dave Logan hangs onto Brian Sipe's passes during Browns' 27-26 victory over Pittsburgh.*

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Week Nine

NOVEMBER 2: HIGH FLYER TRIES FOR LOW PROFILE

Dick Vermeil is playing it cagey these days, biting his tongue you might say. Things are going well, though nowhere near perfectly, for the Philadelphia Eagles. The problem is, they have an 8-1 record, best in the NFL.

"We knew it would be rough coming in here," Vermeil said after the Eagles overcame a 20-17 deficit late in the game to defeat Seattle 27-20. "We're not a great football team. I don't know who is."

Pro football irony, midseason style: To the frontrunner falls the burden of contrived humility. We're good, but not *that* good.

Seattle took its 20-17 lead over the Eagles with 3:20 to play on a nine-yard touchdown run by Dan Doornink. But less than a minute later, Eagles quarterback Ron Jaworski found running back Billy Campfield with a five-yard scoring pass that moved Philadelphia ahead for good. "Every game is tough," Jaworski said afterward. "Eight years in this league, and I haven't had an easy one yet."

The Eagles' pursuers in the NFC East, the Dallas Cowboys, had the same complaint this week. It took a fourth down pass, from quarterback Danny White to Tony Hill, with 45 seconds left to overtake St. Louis 27-24. With the victory, the Cowboys (7-2) stayed within a game of Philadelphia. The Cardinals fell to 3-6, tying them with Washington for third.

Another team in the dark of late, Pittsburgh, was thankful for a 22-20 victory over Green Bay this week. The Packers have recovered from early season calamity and no longer are considered a "bye" on anyone's schedule. Quarterback Lynn Dickey threw for 289 yards and three touchdowns against the Steelers, although the third score came with less than a minute left. All that remained was the Steelers' recovery of an onside kick and their methodical playing out of the final seconds.

Trailing 14-9 at halftime, Pittsburgh was on the scoreboard mainly due to two botched center snaps. The first went by Packers punter David Beverly for a safety in the first quarter. The second led to a seven-yard touchdown pass from Bradshaw to Lynn Swann, a recent returnee from the injured reserve list. In the second half, two field goals by Matt Bahr and a four-yard touchdown pass to Rocky Bleier brought the Steelers' slide to a screeching halt.

Still, the victory left the Super Bowl champions in third place in the AFC Central. Houston, behind a 157-yard performance by Earl Campbell, defeated Denver 20-16.

Cleveland joined the Oilers at the top of the division by defeating Chicago 27-21 in this week's Monday night game. The NFL's largest crowd of 1980 (and the largest crowd in Cleveland Stadium since 1972), a howling chorus of 83,224, watched Brian Sipe complete 23 of 39 passing attempts for 298 yards.

Chicago closed the Browns' margin to 20-14 with less than four minutes to play, but on third down and short yardage, with the Bears' defense bunched at the line of scrimmage, Mike Pruitt ran 56 yards for the deciding touchdown. It was the second touchdown of the evening for Pruitt.

In the NFC West, Los Angeles and Atlanta stayed even at the top of the division, the Rams with a 45-31 romp over New Orleans, the Falcons with a surprisingly lopsided 30-14 victory over Buffalo.

Quarterback Vince Ferragamo tied a Rams club record with five touchdown passes in Los Angeles's victory, four of them in the first 22 minutes of play as Los Angeles moved to a 31-0 advantage well before intermission. The loss kept the Saints in the unenviable position of the NFL's only winless team.

In Buffalo, the Falcons trailed 14-0 in the second quarter when Bills coach Chuck Knox decided to go for a field goal on fourth and inches from the Atlanta 20. Defensive tackle Don Smith blocked Nick Mike-Mayer's attempt, safety Tom Pridemore picked it up and ran 18 yards, and from there the Falcons drove downfield for a 28-yard field goal by Tim Mazzetti. It wasn't so much the points as the change of mood. Less than a minute later, a pass by Joe Ferguson ricocheted off the helmet of safety Bob Glazebrook and into the hands of linebacker Al Richardson, who returned it 20 yards. That set up Steve Bartkowski's 16-yard scoring pass to tight end Junior Miller shortly before the half ended. Atlanta controlled the tempo in the second half, and the Bills (6-3) fell a game behind New England in the AFC East.

NEWSMAKERS

Nord

Taylor

Thurman

The week's top rushers were Houston's **Earl Campbell** (157 yards) and Cleveland's **Mike Pruitt** (129).

Second year quarterback **Steve Dils** started in place of injured Tommy Kramer and passed for 200 yards to lead Minnesota's 39-14 victory over Washington. Vikings safety **Keith Nord** returned a kickoff 70 yards for the touchdown that put Minnesota ahead 23-0. Detroit quarterback **Gary Danielson** finally convinced head coach Monte Clark that a bootleg would succeed against San Francisco. With less than four minutes to play, Clark held his breath as Danielson put the ball on his hip and went eight yards for the touchdown that beat the 49ers 17-13.

Brian Sipe's 298 yards passing against Chicago moved him to the top of the all-time Cleveland list, ahead of Otto Graham (13,499) and Frank Ryan (13,361). Sipe now has 13,534 yards.

The leading receivers of week nine were running backs **Billy Sims** of Detroit and **Billy Taylor** of the New York Giants, with 11 catches each.

Dallas safety **Dennis Thurman** returned an interception 78 yards for a touchdown in the Cowboys' narrow victory over St. Louis.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
New England	7	2	0	.778	254	183
Buffalo	6	3	0	.667	193	151
Baltimore	5	4	0	.556	194	183
Miami	4	5	0	.444	123	177
N.Y. Jets	2	7	0	.222	152	212
AFC Central						
Cleveland	6	3	0	.667	201	180
Houston	6	3	0	.667	157	144
Pittsburgh	5	4	0	.556	238	193
Cincinnati	3	6	0	.333	125	159
AFC West						
Oakland	6	3	0	.667	231	202
San Diego	6	3	0	.667	272	184
Denver	4	5	0	.444	160	185
Kansas City	4	5	0	.444	169	190
Seattle	4	5	0	.444	165	198
NFC East						
Philadelphia	8	1	0	.889	234	114
Dallas	7	2	0	.778	255	157
St. Louis	3	6	0	.333	181	187
Washington	3	6	0	.333	137	173
N.Y. Giants	1	8	0	.111	120	264
NFC Central						
Detroit	6	3	0	.667	210	154
Tampa Bay	4	4	1	.500	153	176
Minnesota	4	5	0	.444	144	180
Green Bay	3	5	1	.389	132	188
Chicago	3	6	0	.333	134	151
NFC West						
Atlanta	6	3	0	.667	231	162
Los Angeles	6	3	0	.667	263	179
San Francisco	3	6	0	.333	197	270
New Orleans	0	9	0	.000	147	276

SCORES

American Football Conference

Baltimore 31, Kansas City 24
Houston 20, Denver 16
New England 34, New York Jets 21
Oakland 16, Miami 10
San Diego 31, Cincinnati 14

National Football Conference

Dallas 27, St. Louis 24
Detroit 17, San Francisco 13
Los Angeles 45, New Orleans 31
Minnesota 39, Washington 14
Tampa Bay 30, New York Giants 13

Interconference Games

Atlanta 30, Buffalo 14
Cleveland 27, Chicago 21
Philadelphia 27, Seattle 20
Pittsburgh 22, Green Bay 20

AFC, 19 victories; NFC, 9 victories

▶ Clockwise from top: *Detroit and San Francisco play turnover in the Silverdome as running back Billy Sims fumbles for one of Lions' five giveaways in the third quarter alone. Despite their generosity, the Lions score a late touchdown and win 17-13. Pittsburgh defenders Joe Greene (75), Tom Beasley (65), L.C. Greenwood (68) take various sections of Green Bay's Eddie Lee Ivery during Steelers' 22-20 victory over Packers. Cleveland stays even with Houston in the AFC Central race, scoring a 27-21 victory over Chicago in Monday night action; here, running back Calvin Hill is upended by Chicago's Gary Fencik after one of his four receptions. Atlanta's Lynn Cain scores one of his two touchdowns in Falcons' 30-14 romp over Buffalo.*

STUCKEY
79

40

Week Ten

NOVEMBER 9: A STUDY IN ROLE REVERSAL

If the Green Bay Packers have done nothing else in 1980—and they have made some amazing strides in 10 weeks—they have improvised. They stated the theme in game one, when Chester Marcol coolly retrieved a blocked field goal and lugged it for the touchdown that beat Chicago in overtime. As the schedule wore on, the Packers ignored rumors of an early departure for head coach Bart Starr. Now their record is 4-5-1. They are within reach of the division-leading Detroit Lions (6-4).

This week Green Bay fell behind San Francisco 13-0, tied the score at 13-13 before the first half ended, and went on to defeat the 49ers 23-16. To do it, they had to jerry-rig their defense in a 5-1-5 alignment, using wide receiver James Lofton as a fifth man in the secondary.

Starr explained the move as a matter of sheer necessity. "Quite simply," he said, "we were so short of people that we needed some speed back there in one of the defenses we use, so we just inserted James as one of our defensive backs. It's that simple."

Things may have looked pleasantly askew to spectators in Wisconsin, but in the Meadowlands, New Jersey, the view was dreamlike. The New York Giants, losers of eight straight, used a gadget play to upset Dallas 38-35 in the rain.

Late in the game, with the score tied 35-35, rookie running back Leon Perry took a handoff from quarterback Phil Simms and pitched the ball back to Simms, who threw a 40-yard pass to rookie wide receiver Mike Friede. That set up a 27-yard field goal by Joe Danelo with 1:07 left. The Giants halted a late rally by the Cowboys when backup safety Gary Woolford intercepted Danny White's pass at the New York 12 with several seconds remaining.

Of the crucial play, Perry said, "We practiced it all week, but never in a torrential downpour."

"It's one of those plays that you put in and hope it works," said Simms. "I told Leon if he was in doubt, not to pitch it back. This was just one of those days when everything was clicking."

Even as the Giants toweled off, Miami and Los Angeles were turning an autumn afternoon in Anaheim into a crucible of speculation. Achieving harmony with the dull skies and stuffy-warm temperatures, the Rams were outplayed by the Dolphins and lost 35-14.

Rookie quarterback David Woodley, the 214th player and the fourteenth quarterback taken in the 1980 draft, directed the Dolphins' offense with five time-consuming drives (75, 69, 81, 73, and 80 yards long) and contributed three scoring passes to the display. The Rams, down 21-7 at halftime and 28-7 in the third quarter, appeared eager to play a quick catch-up game and never got into the competitive flow.

Buffalo broke a 24-24 tie with six seconds to play, defeating the New York Jets 31-24 on a 31-yard touchdown pass from Joe Ferguson to Frank Lewis. The Bills had led 17-0 during the first half and 24-10 after three quarters, but 10 points in the second quarter and 14 in the fourth had brought the Jets even. With 28 seconds left, New York punted to Joe Cribbs, whose 15-yard return gave Buffalo 19 seconds and 47 yards to work with.

"We were a little down when they tied the score," said Bills quarterback Joe Ferguson. "When you score that many points, you ought to win a game. When you have a team 17-0, and then you have to start all over again, it can get you down a little."

Cleveland had Baltimore down 28-13 with less than two minutes to play, but two short touchdown passes by Bert Jones brought the Colts to within a point. After the 28-27 victory, Browns coach Sam Rutigliano said, "This team has to take the melodrama out of the fourth quarter or I'm not going to be coaching long. We can't seem to do things easily."

Bum Phillips, whose Houston Oilers survived a late surge by New England in the Astrodome Monday night, probably empathized with his division rival. The combination of quarterback Steve Grogan and tight end Russ Francis produced touchdown passes of 21 and 15 yards in the fourth quarter, but the rally wasn't enough to prevent a 38-34 Houston victory. But whatever *sympathy* Phillips felt toward Rutigliano no doubt was short-lived. The Oilers and the Browns, both 7-3, remain tied for the lead in the AFC Central.

NEWSMAKERS

Fuller

Humphrey

Strong

Running back **Ray Strong** scored on a 21-yard run 4:42 into overtime to give Atlanta a 33-27 victory over St. Louis. Head coach Leeman Bennett pointed out that the play was designed to maintain field position and set up a chip shot field goal. "But," Strong said, "my guard made an excellent block, and I saw green and went for it."

Claude Humphrey was Philadelphia's defensive leader in its 34-21 victory over New Orleans, deflecting 1 pass that turned into an interception and sacking Archie Manning 4 times. Quarterback **Steve Fuller** drove Kansas City 91 yards in the closing minutes to give the Chiefs a 31-30 victory over Seattle.

Tony Dorsett led all the rushers this week with 183 yards and 2 touchdowns. Two familiar names recovered their strides for the time being. Miami's **Delvin Williams** had 151 yards and **Chuck Muncie** of San Diego gained 115.

Six receivers had 9 catches apiece: running backs **Wayne Wilson** of New Orleans and **Ted Brown** of Minnesota, and wide receivers **Alfred Jenkins** of Atlanta, **Charlie Joiner** of San Diego, **Charles Smith** of Philadelphia, and **Wes Chandler** of New Orleans.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	7	3	0	.700	224	175
New England	7	3	0	.700	288	221
Baltimore	5	5	0	.500	221	211
Miami	5	5	0	.500	158	191
N.Y. Jets	2	8	0	.200	176	243
AFC Central						
Cleveland	7	3	0	.700	229	207
Houston	7	3	0	.700	195	178
Pittsburgh	6	4	0	.600	262	214
Cincinnati	3	7	0	.300	142	187
AFC West						
Oakland	7	3	0	.700	259	219
San Diego	6	4	0	.600	285	204
Denver	5	5	0	.500	180	198
Kansas City	5	5	0	.500	200	220
Seattle	4	6	0	.400	195	229
NFC East						
Philadelphia	9	1	0	.900	268	135
Dallas	7	3	0	.700	290	195
St. Louis	3	7	0	.300	208	220
Washington	3	7	0	.300	158	208
N.Y. Giants	2	8	0	.200	158	299
NFC Central						
Detroit	6	4	0	.600	210	188
Minnesota	5	5	0	.500	178	180
Tampa Bay	4	5	1	.450	174	200
Green Bay	4	5	1	.450	155	204
Chicago	4	6	0	.400	169	172
NFC West						
Atlanta	7	3	0	.700	264	189
Los Angeles	6	4	0	.600	277	214
San Francisco	3	7	0	.300	213	293
New Orleans	0	10	0	.000	168	310

SCORES

American Football Conference
Buffalo 31, New York Jets 24
Cleveland 28, Baltimore 27
Denver 20, San Diego 13
Houston 38, New England 34
Kansas City 31, Seattle 30
Oakland 28, Cincinnati 17

National Football Conference
Atlanta 33, St. Louis 27, overtime
Chicago 35, Washington 21
Green Bay 23, San Francisco 16
Minnesota 34, Detroit 0
New York Giants 38, Dallas 35
Philadelphia 34, New Orleans 21

Interconference Games
Miami 35, Los Angeles 14
Pittsburgh 24, Tampa Bay 21
AFC, 21 victories; NFC, 9 victories

▶ Clockwise from top left: *Two diving Prestons: Denver's Dave beats San Diego's Ray as Broncos upset Chargers 20-13. Houston's rookie return specialist Carl Roaches eludes New England's Don Hasselbeck during Oilers' 38-34 victory over Patriots. Packers running back Gerry Ellis outmaneuvers 49ers linebacker Bobby Leopold, Green Bay wins 23-16. After what seemed a fruitless search, Miami has found its quarterback of the future. Rookie David Woodley is the man; here, escorted by guard Bob Kuechenberg, he draws a bead on the Rams' secondary during the Dolphins' 35-14 upset of the NFC champions. Chicago wide receiver James Scott does some high stepping, but the entertainment value is lost on Washington's Tony Peters.*

Week Eleven

NOVEMBER 16: ONE ON THE MEND, THREE ON A TEAR

The adage says that nobody knows you when you're down and out, but the Cleveland Browns had no trouble recognizing the 11 black shirts lined up at their 3 yard line with 11 seconds to play. Something also was familiar about what happened next. Terry Bradshaw rolled out to his left and threw a touchdown pass to Lynn Swann to give Pittsburgh a 16-13 victory over the Browns and a share of second place in the AFC Central.

In recent weeks, the sporting print media have spent about three rivers of ink trying to drown the Steelers in their own sorry state—only one victory in October, injuries all over the place, variations on a theme of catastrophe. This week, with a field-level view of where a 6-5 record might leave them in their quest for a fifth Super Bowl championship, the Steelers reacted like . . . champions.

Pittsburgh's clinching score was the result of an unlikely reprieve. Having stopped the Steelers on fourth and goal from the 1 yard line with three minutes left, the Browns took over and were unable to move out of poor position. On fourth down, punter Johnny Evans stood still in the Cleveland end zone, took an intentional safety, and guaranteed Pittsburgh possession with just under two minutes to play.

The final drive was as time-consuming as it was precise, though it did come close to aborting when Bradshaw limped away from contact with Browns defensive end Lyle Alzado after throwing incomplete to stop the clock. But Bradshaw limped back onto the field to complete his business, and the Steelers emerged from week 11 with a 7-4 record, standing next to the Browns, a game behind division-leading Houston.

The Oilers were having their own problems. Trailing Chicago 6-0 in the second quarter they resorted to a fake field goal and a shovel pass by holder Gifford Nielsen to running back Tim Wilson and went ahead 7-6. The final score was 10-6, but not without the help of a 206-yard rushing performance by Earl Campbell.

Three winning streaks stayed alive this week, each one having its own effect on the division in question.

Philadelphia won its seventh in a row, shutting out Washington 24-0. Ron Jaworski threw two touchdown passes, but the story here was the Eagles' defense, top-rated in the NFC, which sacked Redskins quarterback Joe Theismann three times and came up with three interceptions.

"I told this team before the season that if we beat Dallas in Philadelphia and the Redskins in Washington, we'd win the division," said coach Dick Vermeil. "Well, here we are." Well, almost, Dick. With five games to go, the Eagles are 10-1, the Cowboys 8-3.

Oakland's sixth straight victory turned out to be Seattle's sixth straight loss in its own arena. The Seahawks have not won a regular season game in the the Kingdome this year, adding a new dimension to the notion of staying dry under a roof.

Chris Bahr's 28-yard field goal with less than a minute left gave the Raiders a 19-17 victory, their fifteenth in 17 Monday night appearances. Oakland trailed 14-0 at one point in the third quarter. The Seahawks got into scoring position on one drive with a fake field goal pass play from quarterback-holder Jim Zorn to kicker Efren Herrera in the second quarter, a nine-yard gain that set up a touchdown plunge by Lawrence McCutcheon.

The Raiders' comeback hinged on an interception by Lester Hayes that gave them the ball at the Seahawks' 39 with just over four minutes to play. Quarterback Jim Plunkett took Oakland to the Seattle 10, and Bahr delivered his winning kick.

Atlanta's fifth straight victory came at the expense of hapless New Orleans, still without success in 11 outings. Steve Bartkowski's three touchdown passes were more than enough for a 31-13 decision.

"I think we are all doing a little more maturing each week," Bartkowski said of the club, which is now 8-3 and leads Los Angeles by a game in the NFC West. "We're tired of losing. Now that we've had a taste of winning we know what it's like."

Head coach Leeman Bennett turned the praise around: "Bartkowski has played tremendously all season and he did the same today. He's been in the league six years now and that's in his favor—experience. There's not much he hasn't seen."

Other than a division title, a conference championship, and . . . .

NEWSMAKERS

Robinson

Thomas

Williams

Philadelphia linebacker **Jerry Robinson** added icing to the Eagles' shutout of Washington by returning a fumble 59 yards for a touchdown.

This week's passing leader was **Doug Williams** of Tampa Bay, who threw for 486 yards (30 of 55) and 4 touchdowns in the Buccaneers' loss to Minnesota. "Now is there any question about his being a top quarterback?" asked Vikings head coach Bud Grant. The Vikings' **Tommy Kramer** had an excellent day himself, with 324 yards for 2 touchdown passes in the 38-30 victory.

Mike Thomas's 109 yards rushing wasn't the NFL's top mark of the week, but it did mark a return to form for the previously injured running back, as well as for San Diego's depleted ground game. The yardage helped the Chargers defeat Kansas City 20-7 and remain one game behind the Oakland Raiders in the AFC West.

Lynn Swann caught the three-yard touchdown pass that beat Cleveland, bringing his reception total to 9 for week 11, best in the NFL. Denver running back **Dave Preston** had 8 catches for 67 yards in the Broncos' 31-24 victory over the New York Jets.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	8	3	0	.727	238	175
New England	7	4	0	.636	302	238
Baltimore	6	5	0	.545	231	220
Miami	6	5	0	.545	175	204
N.Y. Jets	2	9	0	.182	200	274
AFC Central						
Houston	8	3	0	.727	205	184
Cleveland	7	4	0	.636	242	223
Pittsburgh	7	4	0	.636	278	227
Cincinnati	3	8	0	.273	142	201
AFC West						
Oakland	8	3	0	.727	278	236
San Diego	7	4	0	.636	305	211
Denver	6	5	0	.545	211	222
Kansas City	5	6	0	.455	207	240
Seattle	4	7	0	.364	212	248
NFC East						
Philadelphia	10	1	0	.909	292	135
Dallas	8	3	0	.727	321	216
N.Y. Giants	3	8	0	.273	185	320
St. Louis	3	8	0	.273	229	251
Washington	3	8	0	.273	158	232
NFC Central						
Detroit	6	5	0	.545	219	198
Minnesota	6	5	0	.545	216	210
Green Bay	4	6	1	.409	176	231
Tampa Bay	4	6	1	.409	204	238
Chicago	4	7	0	.364	175	182
NFC West						
Atlanta	8	3	0	.727	295	202
Los Angeles	7	4	0	.636	294	228
San Francisco	3	8	0	.273	226	310
New Orleans	0	11	0	.000	181	141

SCORES

American Football Conference

Buffalo 14, Cincinnati 0
Denver 31, New York Jets 24
Oakland 19, Seattle 17
Pittsburgh 16, Cleveland 13
San Diego 20, Kansas City 7

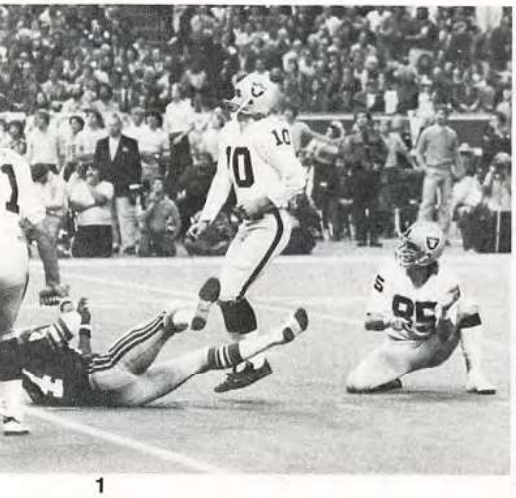
National Football Conference

Atlanta 31, New Orleans 13
Dallas 31, St. Louis 21
Minnesota 38, Tampa Bay 30
New York Giants 27, Green Bay 21
Philadelphia 24, Washington 0

Interconference Games

Baltimore 10, Detroit 9
Houston 10, Chicago 6
Los Angeles 17, New England 14
Miami 17, San Francisco 13
AFC, 24 victories; NFC, 10 victories

► Clockwise from top left: *New England's Don Hasselbeck finds the handle on touchdown pass from Steve Grogan during Patriots' loss to Los Angeles. Houston's fake field goal leads to victory over Chicago, as holder Gifford Nielsen flicks ball to Tim Wilson for an eight-yard touchdown. New York Giants defensive tackle Myron Lapka descends on Green Bay quarterback Lynn Dickey during Giants' 27-21 victory. Cincinnati's Charles Alexander fumbles, Buffalo shuts out Bengals 14-0. Three-part sequence shows reactions of Oakland placekicker Chris Bahr and holder Bob Chandler as they follow the flight of Bahr's winning 28-yard field goal against Seattle; kick came with 56 seconds left and extended Seahawks' 1980 home record to 0-6.*



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Week Twelve

NOVEMBER 20: TOO SOON TO TELL

Is it time yet? Are we allowed to sneak a forward look? From the way the divisions of the NFL have reached the three-quarter mark of 1980, anyone who gazes at the playoff picture for more than a split second does so at his or her own risk.

Start with an easy one. Philadelphia is in the playoffs. By defeating Oakland 10-7 in one of the league's best matchups of the season, the Eagles ran their record to 11-1. Even if they were to lose their remaining four games, Dick Vermeil's club still would be among the top five in the NFC, thus at least a wild card entry in the postseason tournament.

The Eagles-Raiders contest was scoreless midway through the third quarter, when Tony Franklin kicked a 51-yard field goal. On a first down play at the beginning of the fourth quarter, Oakland surprised the Eagles with an 86-yard touchdown pass from Jim Plunkett to Cliff Branch.

The Eagles scored their winning touchdown on a three-yard carry by Wilbert Montgomery, which was set up, ironically enough, by a first down bomb from Ron Jaworski to Leroy Harris, good for a 43-yard gain. From there, a 12-yard pass to Harold Carmichael led to Montgomery's score.

Dallas got a scare from Washington but extended its record to 9-3 with a 14-10 victory over the Redskins. Defensive tackle Larry Cole went 43 yards with an interception to score the winning touchdown in the fourth quarter. That made four touchdowns on turnovers for Cole in his 13-year career. All have been against Washington.

The NFC Central saw some movement this week, as Detroit (7-5) beat Tampa Bay (4-7-1) and Green Bay (5-6-1) beat Minnesota (6-6). "We needed this win to get back on the right track," said head coach Monte Clark, whose Lions have three days to prepare for their traditional Thanksgiving game with last place Chicago (4-8). The Lions had lost five of their last seven games before beating the Buccaneers. The Vikings, on the other hand, had hoped to win their fourth straight, but Green Bay's 25-13 victory dropped Minneosta a game behind the Lions.

The Bears were beaten this week by Atlanta (9-3), which maintained its one-game lead over Los Angeles in the NFC West. Fourth quarter touchdown passes from Steve Bartkowski to Alfred Jenkins and William Andrews made the difference in the Falcons' 28-17 victory. But the oddity to report from this one was the ejection of running back Walter Payton, who bumped head linesman Ed Marion while protesting a fumble call near the Atlanta goal line.

"I'm on the ground, the ball was under me, and I tried ... like a pushup ... to get up," Payton said. "What happened? Fumble? Where? The whistle had blown."

Referee Fred Wyant: "Payton went down to approximately the one or two yard line, fumbled, and Atlanta recovered. Two officials [Marion and umpire Tom Hensley] saw it. The officials came in and gave the ball to Atlanta. Later, the NFL said a review of the game films showed Payton did not fumble.

In the AFC East, Buffalo and New England came out of week 12 the same way they went in—a game apart. The Bills (9-3) made life tougher for Pittsburgh, defeating the Steelers 28-13 and placing still more of a burden on the Super Bowl champions, who had hoped to stay even with Houston and Cleveland in the AFC Central. Afterward, Steelers head coach Chuck Noll said, "I'm not concerned about getting a wild card spot. I just hope we can suit up thirty-three guys." The remark was prompted by new injuries to linebacker Robin Cole, wide receiver Jim Smith, tackle Jon Kolb, and quarterback Terry Bradshaw.

New England's Steve Grogan broke a string of 78 consecutive starts, sitting out with a bad knee. Matt Cavanaugh took his place at quarterback, and the Patriots smashed Baltimore 47-21.

In the Central Division, Cleveland drew even with Houston by virtue of a 31-7 romp over Cincinnati and the New York Jets' 31-28 upset of the Oilers in overtime. Pat Leahy, who had missed a 36-yard field goal attempt at the end of regulation play, hit a 38-yarder for the victory.

Oakland's loss to Philadelphia on Sunday meant that San Diego, which had defeated Miami the previous Thursday evening, now shares the lead in the AFC West. The Chargers won 27-24 in overtime, as Rolf Benirschke kicked a 28-yard field goal halfway through the sudden death period.

NEWSMAKERS

Barber

Ellis

Lowe

Green Bay's victory over Minnesota included 100-yard performances by running backs **Eddie Lee Ivery** and **Gerry Ellis**. Ivery's 145 yards led all NFL rushers in week 12; Ellis had 101.

Cleveland's **Brian Sipe** completed 27 of 36 passing attempts for 310 yards in the Browns' victory over Cincinnati. The passing leader this week, however, was **Ken Stabler**, who threw for 388 yards in the Oilers' overtime loss to the New York Jets.

Ten of Stabler's 33 completions were to tight end **Mike Barber**, who totaled 97 yards and scored 1 touchdown. Eight players had 7 receptions each: Baltimore's **Joe Washington**, Cleveland's **Reggie Rucker**, Detroit's **David Hill**, Houston's **Mike Renfro**, Kansas City's **Henry Marshall**, Miami's **Tony Nathan**, Pittsburgh's **Franco Harris**, and San Diego's **Kellen Winslow**.

San Diego linebacker **Woodrow Lowe** picked off a pass from Miami's David Woodley to set up **Rolf Benirschke's** winning field goal in overtime. "I tried to make it to the end zone," Lowe said. "But it was too late at night for me to play here." It was just after midnight in the Orange Bowl, just after nine in San Diego.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	9	3	0	.750	266	188
New England	8	4	0	.667	349	259
Baltimore	6	6	0	.500	252	267
Miami	6	6	0	.500	199	231
N.Y. Jets	3	9	0	.250	231	302
AFC Central						
Cleveland	8	4	0	.667	273	230
Houston	8	4	0	.667	233	215
Pittsburgh	7	5	0	.583	291	255
Cincinnati	3	9	0	.250	149	232
AFC West						
Oakland	8	4	0	.667	285	246
San Diego	8	4	0	.667	332	235
Denver	7	5	0	.583	247	242
Kansas City	6	6	0	.500	228	253
Seattle	4	8	0	.333	232	284
NFC East						
Philadelphia	11	1	0	.917	302	142
Dallas	9	3	0	.750	335	226
N.Y. Giants	3	9	0	.250	185	332
St. Louis	3	9	0	.250	242	272
Washington	3	9	0	.250	168	246
NFC Central						
Detroit	7	5	0	.583	243	208
Minnesota	6	6	0	.500	229	235
Green Bay	5	6	1	.458	201	244
Tampa Bay	4	7	1	.375	214	262
Chicago	4	8	0	.333	192	210
NFC West						
Atlanta	9	3	0	.750	323	219
Los Angeles	8	4	0	.667	321	235
San Francisco	4	8	0	.333	238	310
New Orleans	0	12	0	.000	186	368

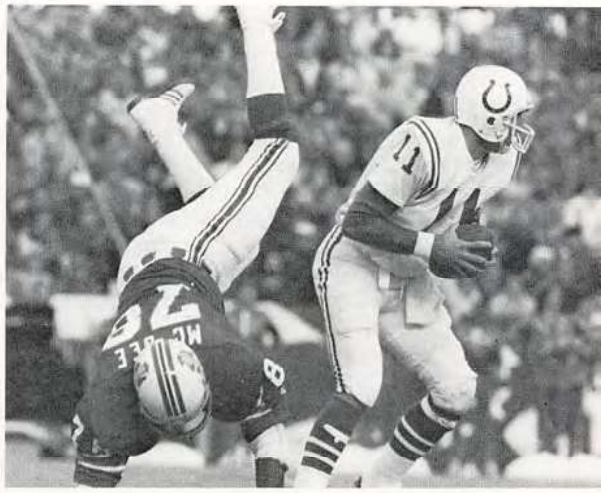
SCORES

American Football Conference
Buffalo 28, Pittsburgh 13
Cleveland 31, Cincinnati 7
Denver 36, Seattle 20
New England 47, Baltimore 21
New York Jets 31, Houston 28, overtime
San Diego 27, Miami 24, overtime
National Football Conference
Atlanta 28, Chicago 17
Dallas 14, Washington 10
Detroit 24, Tampa Bay 10
Green Bay 25, Minnesota 13
Los Angeles 27, New Orleans 7
San Francisco 12, New York Giants 0
Interconference Games
Kansas City 21, St. Louis 13
Philadelphia 10, Oakland 7
AFC, 25 victories; NFC, 11 victories

► Clockwise from top left: *Green Bay's James Lofton hangs onto one of five receptions in Packers' 25-13 victory over Minnesota. Buffalo's Jerry Butler collides with Pittsburgh defender but hangs on for touchdown catch in Bills' 28-13 triumph over Steelers. Tony (Mack the Sack) McGee tries to reinforce his nickname but Colts quarterback Greg Landry eludes him; Baltimore can't elude Patriots, 47-21. San Francisco's James Owens tumbles into a pile of 49ers and Giants on a kickoff return during 49ers' 12-0 victory. Houston's Rich Caster gets behind Jets' Darrol Ray and Donald Dykes for this touchdown catch, but Jets upset Oilers 31-28 in overtime. Walter Payton, ejected for shoving an official, sits out the remainder of Atlanta's victory over Chicago.*

BUTLER
80

PAYTON
34



Week Thirteen

NOVEMBER 27: THE PLAYOFF PLOT THICKENS

On Thanksgiving Day, the NFL offered a nationwide television audience the fat and the lean. In reverse order.

Chicago went into the fourth quarter trailing Detroit 17-3, scored two touchdowns in that period to send the game into overtime, and then shocked the Lions with Dave Williams's 95-yard kickoff return for a 23-17 victory. Never has the term "sudden death" been more appropriate.

Williams talked about his return in a matter-of-fact way (the Bears, at 5-8, are apt to favor realism these days). "A couple of guys had an angle on me and I thought maybe they would catch me," said the fifth year running back. "It wasn't until I was fifteen yards from the end zone that I thought, 'Hey, it's too late now—touchdown!' "

It probably was too late for the Seattle Seahawks at about the time they were suiting up for their Thanksgiving game with Dallas. Only a consolation two-yard pass from Jim Zorn to tackle-eligible Ron Essink saved the Seahawks from a shutout. The Cowboys, who led 30-0 at halftime, eased to a 51-7 win.

The victory moved the Cowboys within one and one-half games of Philadelphia in the lopsided NFC East, with its two have, three have-not teams. Sunday, the Eagles found their advantage cut to one game, losing for only the second time this season, 22-21 at San Diego.

The Chargers built a 19-0 lead by halftime but could add only a 42-yard field goal by Rolf Benirschke in the fourth quarter. Their post-intermission woes included a regrouped Eagles offense, penalties, turnovers, and poor field position—all interrelated, to be sure.

The Eagles' comeback nearly had enough fuel to overtake the Chargers, but a sack by Gary Johnson knocked quarterback Ron Jaworski out of action for the final five minutes of the game. His replacement, Joe Pisarcik, completed three of four passing attempts, but sacks by Cliff Thrift and Fred Dean blunted any hopes of a final, winning drive.

If the Chargers were in for a tough time in their division the rest of the way, it was difficult to document that claim from the looks of the Oakland-Denver "showdown" on Monday night. The last game of the long weekend turned out to be an offensive dud, with the Raiders winning 9-3. Jim Plunkett, who threw for only 78 yards all evening, scored the decisive touchdown on an eight-yard bootleg in the third quarter.

The focus of attention at the Oakland Coliseum, however, was a well-orchestrated protest against managing general partner Al Davis's plans to move the club to Los Angeles next year. A majority of the crowd waited outside the stadium five minutes at the start of the game, and most of the crowd waved placards that read "Save Our Raiders" as television cameras panned the stands.

The matchup of the week took place in the AFC Central, as Cleveland met Houston in the Astrodome. The Browns jumped to an early 14-0 lead on two touchdowns by reserve running back Cleo Miller, then added a 25-yard field goal by Don Cockroft in the third quarter, enough for a 17-14 victory. The Houston pass defense held Browns quarterback Brian Sipe to 92 yards through the air. "We felt we had to run the ball, so we hoped we could establish that early lead, because we have a lot of respect for their secondary," Sipe said.

The victory moves the Browns (9-4) a game up on Houston and Pittsburgh, who have only three days to prepare for their Thursday night meeting in the Astrodome to begin week 14. The Browns stand to profit from that one, regardless of the outcome.

The NFC West was a maelstrom of jubilation, regeneration, temporary stagnation, and downright woe this week. In order: The Los Angeles Rams bullied the New York Jets for an easy 38-13 victory, a sign that the Rams' machinery for high scoring is back in gear. The San Francisco 49ers tied a club record, intercepting New England's Steve Grogan six times in a 21-17 victory that offered the 49ers (5-8) hopes of a .500 season. The Atlanta Falcons suddenly stopped in midflight, played a "flat" game according to coach Leeman Bennett, but held on to defeat Washington 10-6 and retain their one-game lead over the Rams. And the New Orleans Saints, playing their first game under new head coach Dick Stanfel—Dick Nolan was dismissed early in the week—dropped their thirteenth game in as many outings, a 23-20 disappointment against Minnesota.

NEWSMAKERS

Landry

Miller

Peacock

It was a good week for individual rushing performances, as eight running backs rushed for 100 yards or more. Perhaps the most dramatic work was turned in by Los Angeles's **Elvis Peacock**, who came in when Wendell Tyler was lost for the remainder of the season with a dislocated elbow in the Rams' victory over the New York Jets. Peacock rushed for 152 yards, his best day as a pro. Other performers in this category included St. Louis's **Ottis Anderson** (168), Chicago's **Walter Payton** (123), Pittsburgh's **Franco Harris** (116), Cincinnati's **Pete Johnson** (112), Atlanta's **William Andrews** (111), Houston's **Earl Campbell** (109), and Dallas's **Tony Dorsett** (107).

Although Cleveland running back **Cleo Miller** gained "only" 69 yards in the Browns' victory over Houston, he made the most of his 8 carries. In addition to first half touchdowns of six and one yards, Miller got off a 50-yard run that set up **Don Cockroft's** winning field goal.

Greg Landry was far from the week's leading passer, but the Baltimore backup quarterback threw a touchdown pass and ran for another score in the Colts' suprise of Buffalo.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	9	4	0	.692	290	216
New England	8	5	0	.615	366	280
Baltimore	7	6	0	.538	280	291
Miami	6	7	0	.462	209	254
N.Y. Jets	3	10	0	.231	244	340
AFC Central						
Cleveland	9	4	0	.692	290	244
Houston	8	5	0	.615	247	232
Pittsburgh	8	5	0	.615	314	265
Cincinnati	4	9	0	.308	169	238
AFC West						
Oakland	9	4	0	.692	294	249
San Diego	9	4	0	.692	354	256
Denver	7	6	0	.538	250	251
Kansas City	6	7	0	.462	234	273
Seattle	4	9	0	.308	239	335
NFC East						
Philadelphia	11	2	0	.846	323	164
Dallas	10	3	0	.769	386	233
St. Louis	4	9	0	.308	265	279
N.Y. Giants	3	10	0	.231	192	355
Washington	3	10	0	.231	174	256
NFC Central						
Detroit	7	6	0	.538	260	231
Minnesota	7	6	0	.538	252	255
Green Bay	5	7	1	.424	218	264
Tampa Bay	5	7	1	.424	234	279
Chicago	5	8	0	.385	215	227
NFC West						
Atlanta	10	3	0	.769	333	225
Los Angeles	9	4	0	.692	359	248
San Francisco	5	8	0	.385	259	327
New Orleans	0	13	0	.000	208	391

SCORES

American Football Conference

Baltimore 28, Buffalo 24
Cincinnati 20, Kansas City 6
Cleveland 17, Houston 14
Oakland 9, Denver 3
Pittsburgh 23, Miami 10

National Football Conference

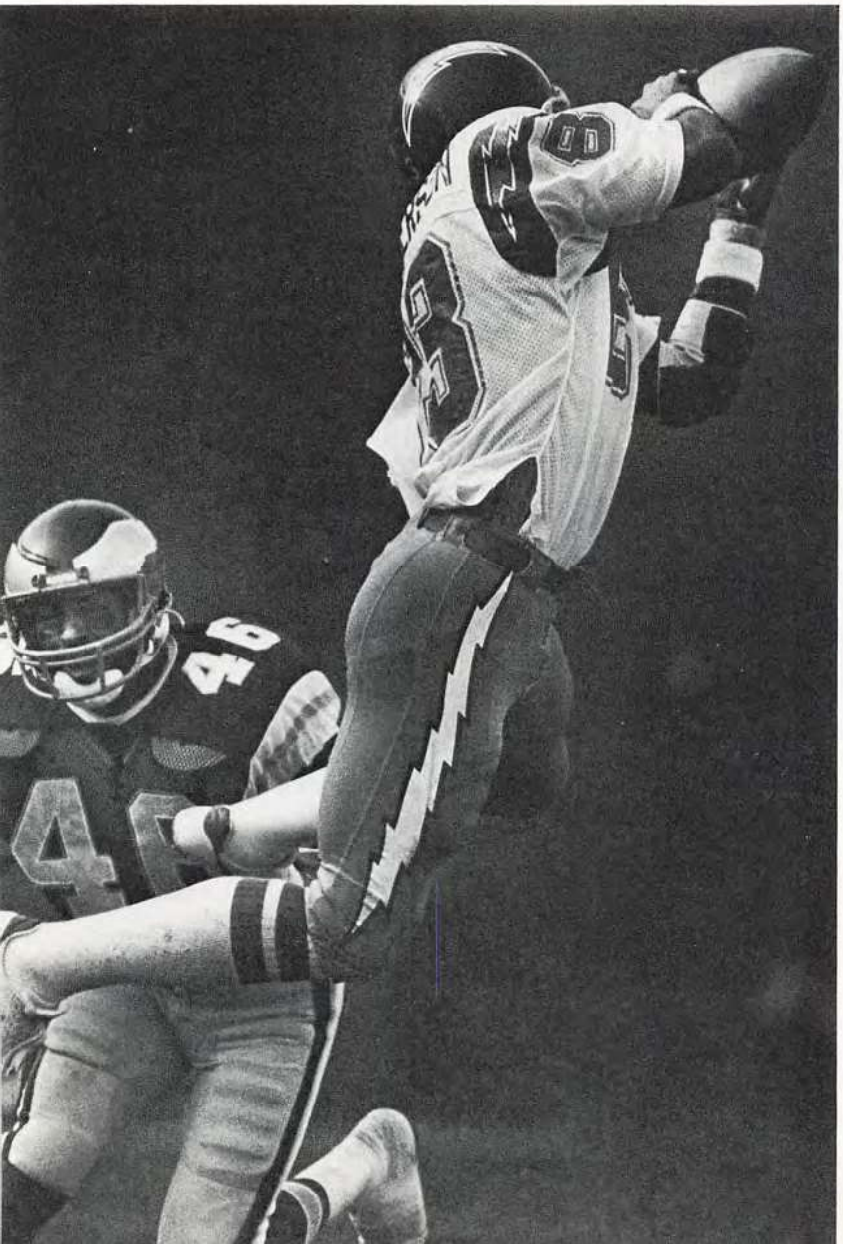
Atlanta 10, Washington 6
Chicago 23, Detroit 17, overtime
Minnesota 23, New Orleans 20
St. Louis 23, New York Giants 7
Tampa Bay 20, Green Bay 17

Interconference Games

Dallas 51, Seattle 7
Los Angeles 38, New York Jets 13
San Diego 22, Philadelphia 21
San Francisco 21, New England 17

AFC, 26 victories; NFC, 14 victories

► Clockwise from top left: *Reserve running back Cleo Miller helps the Browns to the AFC Central lead with two touchdowns in Cleveland's 17-14 victory over Houston. Oakland's Monday night game against Denver begins with more than two-thirds of the seats empty as fans protest the Raiders' proposed move to Los Angeles. Oakland won 9-3. Curtis Dickey of Baltimore stampeded through the error-prone Bills for touchdowns of 18 and 3 yards as the Colts defeat Buffalo 28-24. Elvis Peacock gains part of his 152-yard contribution to the Rams' 510-yard day in a 38-13 rout of the New York Jets. San Diego wide receiver John Jefferson goes airborne for one of his eight catches for 164 yards that helped the Chargers hold off a late Eagles rally, 22-21.*



Week Fourteen

DECEMBER 4: NO GUARANTEES IN THE AFC

The rumbling noise heard through the AFC at the close of the weekend's competition could easily have been caused by members of the Central Division, rolling back the huge boulder of anthracite coal under which the Pittsburgh Steelers were thought to have been buried. But when Cleveland and Houston looked, the Steelers, given up for dead four days earlier, had spirited themselves back into the race.

The Steelers' revival owes everything to the misfortunes of other clubs. The reigning Super Bowl champions lost 6-0 to Houston in the Thursday night game that opened week 14. At that point, with their 8-6 record, they appeared to be easy prey, elimination bait for week 15 perhaps.

However, at the other end of the weekend, New England's loss to Miami in overtime Monday night meant that both the Patriots and the Steelers shared the third best record in the conference, behind five teams with won-lost marks of either 10-4 (Buffalo and Cleveland) or 9-5 (Houston, Oakland, and San Diego). Translation: With two games to go, neither Pittsburgh nor New England is mathematically out of the playoff picture.

On the other hand, *no* team in the AFC is guaranteed a playoff berth. All that's guaranteed is high drama in weeks 15 and 16, accompanied by hurried glances at the complex tie-breaking formula.

The Browns stayed a game ahead of the Oilers with a 17-14 victory over the New York Jets. However, this time there was nothing climactic or dramatic about the game's closing moments. The "Kardiac Kids" merely ran off the final five minutes with a drive that ended at the Jets' 49. "They weren't doing anything to stop the short passes," said quarterback Brian Sipe, whose 30 completions in 41 attempts set a club record. "I figured I could make dump throws to the fullback and keep the clock running. I was playing a ball-control offense."

The playoff picture showed even less resolution in the AFC West, where co-leaders Oakland and San Diego both lost to NFC teams.

In the Raiders' case, the 19-13 loss to Dallas had the look of a last-minute upset until Cowboys cornerback Aaron Mitchell intercepted Jim Plunkett's pass in the end zone with 1:44 left. Moments earlier, Raymond Chester had dropped what would have been the go-ahead touchdown.

San Diego's prolific pass offense got a shock from the Washington defense, which limited Dan Fouts to "only" 200 yards through the air and the Chargers to a total of 286 yards for the game. With less than three minutes elapsed, Redskins cornerback Joe Lavender intercepted Fouts and went 51 yards for a touchdown. Washington never let the Chargers get closer and went on to a surprising 40-17 victory. The Redskins' win ended a five-game losing streak.

In the NFC East, Philadelphia's narrow loss to Atlanta dropped the Eagles (11-3) into a first-place tie with Dallas (the Cowboys' victory assured them of an NFC playoff spot, along with Philadelphia and Atlanta). The score was tied 17-17 when Eagles cornerback Richard Blackmore intercepted a pass from Atlanta quarterback Steve Bartkowski and returned it to the Falcons' 30 with 30 seconds left. But a defensive holding call gave the ball back to the Falcons, and Tim Mazzetti's 37-yard field goal with seven seconds to go produced a 20-17 victory.

That moved Atlanta two games ahead of Los Angeles (8-5) with two weeks to play. The Rams lost to Buffalo 10-7 in overtime this week, as Bills placekicker Nick Mike-Mayer hit a 30-yard field goal 5:14 into the sudden death period. The Rams suffered additional losses, in that four valuable starters were injured, adding to a hospital list that promises to hinder their progress if they do make the playoffs. Against the Bills, they lost quarterback Vince Ferragamo (bruised ribs), running back Elvis Peacock, linebacker Jim Youngblood, defensive end Fred Dryer, and cornerback Pat Thomas. The injuries are short-term, with the exception of Peacock's: he's out for the season after undergoing knee surgery.

There may be little entertainment value in monitoring the morbid, but this week's loss by the New Orleans Saints, their fourteenth in as many games, is noteworthy for the quality of their opponents' comeback. San Francisco, down 35-7 at halftime, recovered for a 38-35 overtime victory. Ray Wersching's 36-yard field goal was the difference.

NEWSMAKERS

Breech

Elliott

Kenney

Cincinnati placekicker **Jim Breech**, cut earlier this year by Oakland and signed by the Bengals less than two weeks ago, kicked a 21-yard field goal with 12 seconds left for a 34-33 victory over Baltimore.

San Francisco's **Lenvil Elliott** was the league's second-leading rusher this week with 125 yards against New Orleans; more important, the total represented a minor revival in Elliott's career. The former Cincinnati running back scored the tying touchdown, a seven-yard run near the end of regulation time, during the 49ers' comeback victory over New Orleans.

Walter Payton gained 130 yards rushing and scored 3 touchdowns in Chicago's 61-7 rout of Green Bay.

The NFL's leading pass catcher this week was Washington running back **Clarence Harmon**, who caught 12 of Joe Theismann's 26 completions in the Redskins' 40-17 upset of San Diego.

But the surprise performer of the week was Kansas City reserve quarterback **Bill Kenney**, who filled in for injured starter Steve Fuller and led a 31-14 victory over Denver, completing 12 of 18 passes for 142 yards and 2 touchdowns.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	10	4	0	.714	300	223
New England	8	6	0	.571	379	296
Baltimore	7	7	0	.500	313	325
Miami	7	7	0	.500	225	267
N.Y. Jets	3	11	0	.214	258	357
AFC Central						
Cleveland	10	4	0	.714	307	258
Houston	9	5	0	.643	253	232
Pittsburgh	8	6	0	.571	314	271
Cincinnati	5	9	0	.357	203	271
AFC West						
Oakland	9	5	0	.643	207	268
San Diego	9	5	0	.643	371	296
Denver	7	7	0	.500	264	282
Kansas City	7	7	0	.500	265	287
Seattle	4	10	0	.286	260	362
NFC East						
Dallas	11	3	0	.786	405	246
Philadelphia	11	3	0	.786	340	184
St. Louis	5	9	0	.357	289	302
N.Y. Giants	4	10	0	.286	219	376
Washington	4	10	0	.286	214	273
NFC Central						
Minnesota	8	6	0	.571	273	265
Detroit	7	7	0	.500	283	255
Chicago	6	8	0	.429	276	234
Green Bay	5	8	1	.393	225	325
Tampa Bay	5	8	1	.393	244	300
NFC West						
Atlanta	11	3	0	.786	353	242
Los Angeles	9	5	0	.643	366	258
San Francisco	6	8	0	.429	297	362
New Orleans	0	14	0	.000	243	429

SCORES

American Football Conference

Cincinnati 34, Baltimore 33
Cleveland 17, New York Jets 14
Houston 6, Pittsburgh 0
Kansas City 31, Denver 14
Miami 16, New England 13, overtime

National Football Conference

Atlanta 20, Philadelphia 17
Chicago 61, Green Bay 7
Minnesota 21, Tampa Bay 10
San Francisco 38, New Orleans 35, overtime
St. Louis 24, Detroit 23

Interconference Games

Buffalo 10, Los Angeles 7, overtime
Dallas 19, Oakland 13
New York Giants 27, Seattle 21
Washington 40, San Diego 17

AFC, 27 victories; NFC, 17 victories

► Clockwise from top: *Long after an already long game has ended, the Buffalo Bills celebrate their hard-hitting 10-7 overtime victory over Los Angeles. Aaron Mitchell leaps in front of Oakland's Derrick Ramsey for a game-saving end zone interception, preserving Dallas's 19-13 victory. In a battle of birds of prey, the Falcons bested the Eagles 20-17, despite swooping defensive linemen Dennis Harrison and Claude Humphrey. After building up a 35-7 halftime lead, the Saints collapsed in the second half. San Francisco sent the game into overtime on Lenvil Elliott's seven yard touchdown run, and went on to win 38-35. Cincinnati also blew a big lead, but came back to beat Baltimore 34-33 on Jim Breech's 21-yard field goal with 12 seconds remaining.*

RAMSEY

Week Fifteen

DECEMBER 13: THE NFC DRAWS ITS PLAYOFF CARDS

This week there was a joyful postgame celebration in the locker room of a victorious NFL team. The ecstasy had nothing to do with the playoffs. The team in question is not a playoff team.

The occasion was the New Orleans Saints' first victory of 1980. The Saints defeated the New York Jets 21-20, scoring 14 points in the fourth quarter.

In doing so, the Saints avoided the stigma of becoming the first team in NFL history to lose 16 games in a season. Quarterback Archie Manning, eminently qualified to comment on the team's misfortunes, spoke of the relief.

"We won for our own pride," he said. "That goose egg, that's something that nags at you. It sure gets the opposing team up. Coaches say, 'Don't get beat by this team.'

"We have winners here. You can smell it. We've got winners on this team, winners who can play."

Head coach Dick Stanfel, who took over three weeks ago when Dick Nolan was fired, said, "This is most certainly the best thing that's ever happened to me."

New Orleans took a 14-13 lead early in the fourth quarter, then fell behind 20-14 five minutes later when Jets quarterback Richard Todd ran 31 yards for a touchdown on a broken play. The Saints scored their tying and winning points with 4:49 left on a one-yard run by Tony Galbreath and the extra point by Benny Ricardo. A heavy snow began to fall on Shea Stadium. Acutely tuned to the irony, the New York crowd sent up a cheer.

The other news in the NFC this week is that all five of the conference's playoff berths have been filled. Joining Philadelphia, Dallas, and Atlanta were Los Angeles and Minnesota, one with a rout, the other with a razor's edge.

The Rams defeated Dallas 38-14 in this week's Monday night contest, rolling up a 38-0 advantage by the end of the third quarter. During that period, the total yardage statistics reached the awkward margin of 436 to 89.

The possibility of a Rams-Cowboys wild card meeting in two weeks will become reality if Los Angeles defeats NFC West champion Atlanta next week and Dallas loses to Philadelphia or doesn't win by 25 points. Students of revenge already are having a good time predicting the Cowboys' state of mind, should that wild card rematch occur.

Minnesota ended the speculation surrounding the outcome of the NFC Central race by defeating Cleveland on the final play of its game with the Browns. The Vikings used a play called "Squadron Right" (three receivers to the right side) for a 46-yard scoring pass from Tommy Kramer to Ahmad Rashad. The play is similar to Atlanta's "Big Ben," a maneuver designed to let one receiver tip the ball to another. In Minnesota's case, the tippers were Cleveland safeties Ron Bolton and Thom Darden, who went airborne and deflected Kramer's bomb. Rashad caught the deflection with his left hand near the sideline and backed into the end zone with the winning score.

The play was set up by an equally creative gambit, a 34-yard flea-flicker pass that went from Kramer to Joe Senser, who as he was being tackled lateraled to running back Ted Brown. Brown stepped out of bounds with five seconds left.

"We have a flair for the dramatic," said Browns coach Sam Rutigliano. "What I should do is get into the insurance business. I can't fault my team. It [the winning play] was great concentration by a great player. You have to give [Minnesota coach] Bud Grant and his team a lot of credit."

The Browns can clinch the AFC Central title next week by defeating Cincinnati. Otherwise, Houston (10-5) stands a chance of winning the championship. The Oilers breezed past Green Bay 22-3, mostly on the strength of Earl Campbell's 181-yards.

New England stayed alive in the playoff chase, defeating Buffalo 24-2. Bills quarterback Joe Ferguson left the game early with a sprained ankle. "I don't think that made much difference, the way we played," said New England coach Ron Erhardt.

In the AFC West, San Diego (10-5) breezed to a 21-14 victory over Seattle, and Oakland (10-5) held off Denver 24-21.

Still, the six-part melee in the AFC has revealed nothing in the way of playoff candidates. All five spots are open. Watch this space.

NEWSMAKERS

Breeden

Fouts

Thomas

Rookie running back **Jewerl Thomas** turned in Los Angeles's longest run from scrimmage, 61 yards, part of a 147-yard performance that helped the Rams rout Dallas in a Monday night game. Houston's **Earl Campbell** was the league's leading rusher this week with 181 yards and 2 touchdowns.

Tommy Kramer's 455 yards and 4 touchdowns in Minnesota's victory over Cleveland was the league's top passing performance this week, but San Diego's **Dan Fouts** registered an even more impressive set of numbers. Fouts's 339 yards in a victory over Seattle gave him 4,407 yards for 1980, breaking the NFL single-season high of 4,082 he set in 1979. It also marked the first time in league history a quarterback had thrown for more than 300 yards in seven games.

With Fouts's first completion to wide receiver **Charlie Joiner**, the Chargers became the first team in NFL history with three receivers gaining over 1,000 yards in a single season—Joiner, wide receiver John Jefferson, and tight end Kellen Winslow.

Cincinnati safety **Louis Breeden** intercepted 3 passes, the first 2 leading to touchdowns, as the Bengals defeated Chicago.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	10	5	0	.667	302	247
New England	9	6	0	.600	403	298
Miami	8	7	0	.533	249	281
Baltimore	7	8	0	.467	327	349
N.Y. Jets	3	12	0	.200	278	378
AFC Central						
Cleveland	10	5	0	.667	330	286
Houston	10	5	0	.667	275	235
Pittsburgh	9	6	0	.600	335	287
Cincinnati	6	9	0	.400	220	285
AFC West						
Oakland	10	5	0	.667	331	289
San Diego	10	5	0	.667	392	310
Denver	7	8	0	.467	285	306
Kansas City	7	8	0	.467	281	308
Seattle	4	11	0	.267	274	383
NFC East						
Philadelphia	12	3	0	.800	357	187
Dallas	11	4	0	.733	419	284
St. Louis	5	10	0	.333	292	319
Washington	5	10	0	.333	230	286
N.Y. Giants	4	11	0	.267	232	392
NFC Central						
Minnesota	9	6	0	.600	301	288
Detroit	8	7	0	.533	310	269
Chicago	6	9	0	.400	290	251
Green Bay	5	9	1	.367	228	347
Tampa Bay	5	9	1	.367	228	347
NFC West						
Atlanta	12	3	0	.800	388	252
Los Angeles	10	5	0	.667	404	272
San Francisco	6	9	0	.400	307	397
New Orleans	1	14	0	.067	264	449

SCORES

American Football Conference

Miami 24, Baltimore 14
New England 24, Buffalo 2
Oakland 24, Denver 21
Pittsburgh 21, Kansas City 16
San Diego 21, Seattle 14

National Football Conference

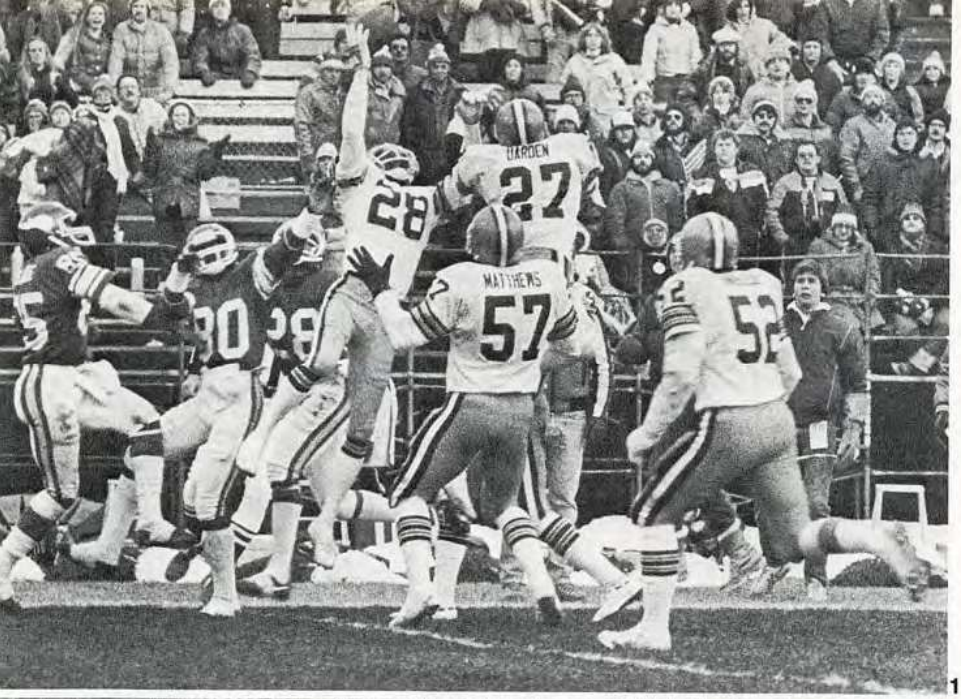
Atlanta 35, San Francisco 10
Detroit 27, Tampa Bay 14
Los Angeles 38, Dallas 14
Philadelphia 17, St. Louis 3
Washington 16, New York Giants 13

Interconference Games

Cincinnati 17, Chicago 14
Houston 22, Green Bay 3
Minnesota 28, Cleveland 23
New Orleans 21, New York Jets 20

AFC, 29 victories; NFC, 19 victories

► Sequence, near left, top to bottom: *Behind 23-22 with just 14 seconds remaining, the Minnesota Vikings go 80 yards in two plays to beat Cleveland 28-23. The miraculous winning play is a desperation 46-yard pass from Tommy Kramer as time runs out. The pass is tipped by Cleveland safeties Ron Bolton (28, white jersey) and Thom Darden (27), but Ahmad Rashad (28) comes down with the ball.* Right, from the top: *Rocky Bleier's 11-yard touchdown run gives gives Pittsburgh a 21-16 come-from-behind victory over Kansas City in his last game at home. New England saves itself from playoff elimination with a fierce pass rush and a 24-2 victory over Buffalo. The Rams and rookie running back Jewerl Thomas devastate Dallas in a 38-14 Monday night rout.*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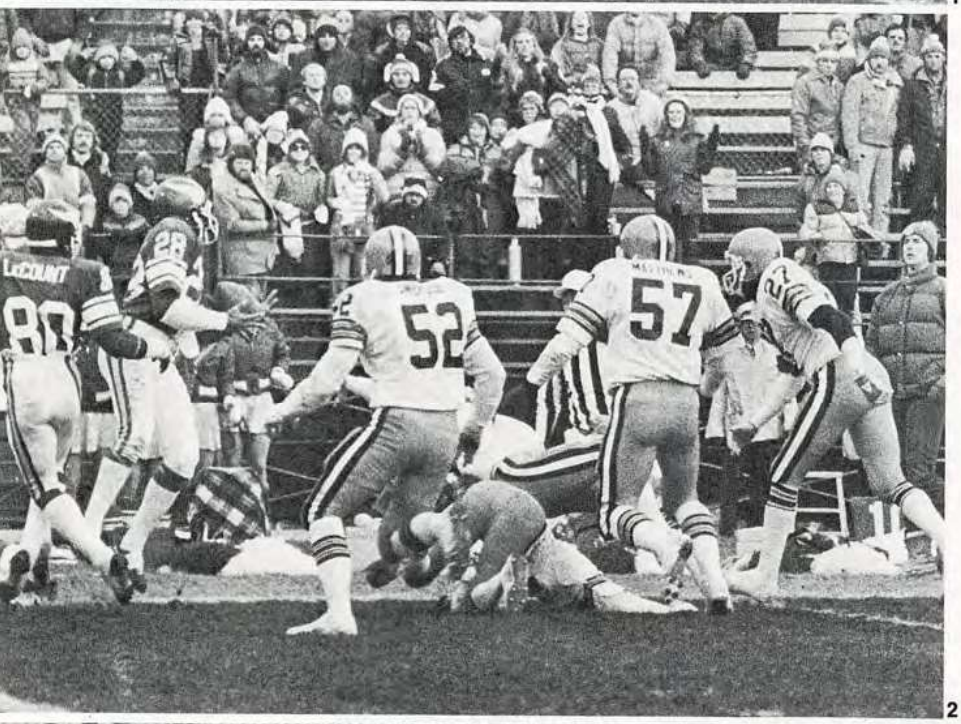
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SLOFF
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FIELD JUDGE
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3

83

Week Sixteen

DECEMBER 20: IT WASN'T OVER TILL IT WAS OVER

There was no avoiding it, but the American Football Conference managed to procrastinate the inevitable, right up to the end.

Check that, give the San Diego Chargers the benefit of the doubt. With at least a quarter to play in the final regular season game of the year, a Monday night encounter with Pittsburgh, the Chargers made it clear that they had the AFC West championship in hand. Thousands of miles away, powerless, the New England Patriots watched their hopes of a playoff entry disappear into the California fog.

San Diego thoroughly confounded the once-proud Pittsburgh defense, mixing the best elements of their rushing attack with their league-leading passing machine to defeat the Steelers 26-17. Running back Chuck Muncie gained 115 yards on the ground, and placekicker Rolf Benirschke made four field goals. Quarterback Dan Fouts threw for 308 yards, raising his NFL single-season passing record to 4,715 yards and contributing to another all-time record, total yardage in one season. The Chargers gained 6,410 in 1980, surpassing the mark of 6,288 set by the 1961 Houston Oilers.

San Diego (11-5) won the division title over Oakland (11-5) on the basis of net points. The Raiders, who defeated the New York Giants Sunday, assumed wild card status and will meet Houston in Oakland next week.

The Oilers defeated Minnesota 20-16 and finished 11-5. Cleveland, however, did what it needed to do to win the AFC Central; the Browns defeated Cincinnati 27-24 and gained the championship on the basis of a better record within the conference.

The Oilers' victory wasn't secure until the final play of the game, when a pass from Vikings quarterback Tommy Kramer to tight end Joe Senser fell incomplete in the end zone.

The Browns got a 22-yard field goal from Don Cockroft with 1:25 left for their margin of victory. By passing for 308 yards Brian Sipe became only the third quarterback in NFL history to throw for over 4,000 yards in a season, joining Fouts and Joe Namath in that category. Sipe finished the year with 4,132 yards through the air.

Buffalo reached the playoffs for the first time since 1974 by defeating San Francisco 18-13 in the rain at Candlestick Park. Again, the outcome was in doubt until the final play, when 49ers quarterback Joe Montana threw incomplete on a desperate 47-yard bomb attempt to Dwight Clark.

New England defeated New Orleans 38-27 and would have made the playoffs in the event of a loss by the Bills. As it turned out, all the Patriots' victory accomplished was the elimination of the reigning Super Bowl champion Steelers, who, ironically, were the Patriots' last hope in Monday night's contest.

With all five NFC playoff berths having been taken by week 15, this weekend's action focused on the vagaries of wild card designation and home field advantage.

Had Dallas defeated Philadelphia by 25 points or more, the Cowboys would have become NFC East champions by virtue of the net points criterion. As it happened, Dallas led the Eagles 35-10 at one point during the fourth quarter. But the Eagles scored three times in the period and reduced the final margin to 35-27.

With the victory, the Cowboys assured themselves of the home field advantage next week against Los Angeles. The Rams met Atlanta, and although they were well-aware of the futility of the effort (the Dallas-Philadelphia score was known before the clock ran out in regulation time at Anaheim), they defeated the Falcons 20-17 on Frank Corral's 23-yard field goal with seven minutes gone in overtime.

So the Rams, 38-14 victors over the Cowboys last week, return to the scene of their triumph in the 1979 NFC divisional playoff game, this time to try reaching the Super Bowl the long way. Either NFC wild card team stands a good chance of reaching and winning the title game three weeks from now and the week 17 matchup is flavored with the residue of revenge from last Monday night. But leave it to veteran Dallas safety Charlie Waters to throw oil on the fire. "Those guys [the Rams] are going to feel confident playing us," he said after Dallas's victory over Philadelphia. "Fortunately we only have to beat them by one point instead of twenty-five. And we'll enjoy having the home field advantage."

NEWSMAKERS

Campbell

Jaworski

Sipe

Houston's **Earl Campbell** led NFL rushers this week and this year, picking up 203 yards and a touchdown in the Oilers' victory over Minnesota to bring his season total to 1,934. It was the third rushing title for Campbell in his three year career and he finished only 69 yards off O.J. Simpson's NFL single season record of 2,003, which was set in 1973. Buffalo's **Joe Cribbs** led the playoff-bound Bills to their 18-13 victory over San Francisco, rushing for 128 yards and finishing his rookie season with 1,185, second to Campbell in the AFC.

Tampa Bay's **Doug Williams** was the NFL's most prolific passer in week 16, throwing for 350 yards and a touchdown against Chicago. Philadelphia's **Ron Jaworski** also won the NFC pass rating championship over Los Angeles's Vince Ferragamo, 90.9 to 89.7. However, the NFL champion was Cleveland's **Brian Sipe**, whose 308 yards against Dallas contributed to a 91.9 rating and made him the third passer in league history to throw for more than 4,000 yards in a season.

Atlanta offensive tackle **Mike Kenn** finished the 1980 regular season without committing a single rule violation.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	11	5	0	.688	320	260
New England	10	6	0	.625	441	325
Miami	8	8	0	.500	266	305
Baltimore	7	9	0	.438	355	387
N.Y. Jets	4	12	0	.250	302	395
AFC Central						
Cleveland	11	5	0	.688	357	310
Houston	11	5	0	.688	295	251
Pittsburgh	9	7	0	.563	352	313
Cincinnati	6	10	0	.375	244	312
AFC West						
San Diego	11	5	0	.688	418	327
Oakland	11	5	0	.688	364	306
Kansas City	8	8	0	.500	319	336
Denver	8	8	0	.500	310	323
Seattle	4	12	0	.250	291	408
NFC East						
Philadelphia	12	4	0	.750	384	222
Dallas	12	4	0	.750	454	311
Washington	6	10	0	.375	261	293
St. Louis	5	11	0	.313	299	350
N.Y. Giants	4	12	0	.250	249	425
NFC Central						
Minnesota	9	7	0	.563	317	308
Detroit	9	7	0	.563	334	272
Chicago	7	9	0	.438	304	264
Tampa Bay	5	10	1	.343	271	341
Green Bay	5	10	1	.343	231	371
NFC West						
Atlanta	12	4	0	.750	405	272
Los Angeles	11	5	0	.688	424	289
San Francisco	6	10	0	.375	320	415
New Orleans	1	15	0	.063	291	487

SCORES

American Football Conference
Cleveland 27, Cincinnati 24
Denver 25, Seattle 17
Kansas City 38, Baltimore 28
New York Jets 24, Miami 17
San Diego 26, Pittsburgh 17

National Football Conference
Chicago 14, Tampa Bay 13
Dallas 35, Philadelphia 27
Detroit 24, Green Bay 3
Los Angeles 20, Atlanta 17, overtime
Washington 31, St. Louis 7

Interconference Games
Buffalo 18, San Francisco 13
Houston 20, Minnesota 16
Oakland 33, New York Giants 17
New England 38, New Orleans 27
AFC, 33 victories; NFC, 19 victories

► Clockwise from top: *The wild card Rams beat the NFC West champion Falcons 20-17 in overtime, thanks partly to rookie Jewerl Thomas's second straight 100-yard day. Houston's Earl Campbell wins his third NFL rushing title in as many years with 203 yards in a 20-16 victory over the Vikings. Dan Fouts of the Chargers breaks the single-season passing yardage record he set in 1979 as San Diego beats Pittsburgh 26-17. Jubilant Buffalo fans greet their AFC East champion Bills at the airport following an 18-13 victory over the 49ers. Coach Sam Rutigliano gets a victory ride after his AFC Central champion Browns beat Cincinnati 27-24. Ed Jones flies like an eagle to pressure Philadelphia's Ron Jaworski in Cowboy's 35-27 victory.*

1980
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AFC-NFC Wild Card Playoffs

DECEMBER 28: HOUSTON VS. OAKLAND, LOS ANGELES VS. DALLAS

OAKLAND 27, HOUSTON 7

Lester Hayes said afterwards, "I've been watching Snake since I came into the league in 1977, and he throws the most beautiful seventeen-yard pass there is. I went into the game feeling if he tried one of those on my side, I would score."

So when Ken Stabler, the aforementioned Snake, did try one of those in the fourth quarter of the AFC wild card game, Hayes picked it off and raced 20 yards for the final touchdown in Oakland's 27-7 victory at the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum.

Stabler, the former Oakland quarterback who was traded to Houston in exchange for Dan Pastorini during the offseason, had seen Hayes several times earlier in the afternoon. The Raiders' all-pro cornerback had sacked him two times (Oakland registered seven sacks in the game) and had intercepted him once earlier.

Oakland scored first, on a 47-yard field goal by Chris Bahr. Houston responded with a 55-yard drive and a one-yard scoring run by Earl Campbell, whose rushing output was effectively blunted (91 yards) by the Raiders' defense.

Oakland quarterback Jim Plunkett threw two touchdown passes, the first a one-yard toss to reserve tight end Todd Christensen to give the Raiders a 10-7 halftime lead. The count went to 17-7 early in the fourth quarter, when Plunkett hit running back Arthur Whittington with a 44-yard bomb. Bahr's second field goal, a 37-yarder with 6:25 left, made it 20-7.

The Raiders kept the Oilers at bay all afternoon with the punting of Ray Guy, who averaged 55.1 yards and whose longest effort was a 66-yarder.

Houston	7	0	0	0	— 7
Oakland	3	7	0	17	—27

Oak—FG Bahr 47
Hou—Campbell 1 run (Fritsch kick)
Oak—Christensen 1 pass from Plunkett (Bahr kick)
Oak—Whittington 44 pass from Plunkett (Bahr kick)
Oak—FG Bahr 37
Oak—Hayes 20 interception return (Bahr kick)
Attendence—52,762

DALLAS 34, LOS ANGELES 13

Is the term "revenge factor" a cliche when applied to NFL competition? Don't ask that question in Anaheim this week. The Los Angeles Rams learned the answer in Texas Stadium, where they suffered a defeat that nearly was an exact reversal of the 38-14 score they ran up on the Dallas Cowboys two weeks ago (on Monday night, December 15).

The turnabout in the final score was reflected in a statistical turnabout as well. Whereas the Rams' running game had appeared unstoppable in week 15, this time the imbalance swung to the Cowboys. Dallas outgained Los Angeles on the ground by a count of 338 yards to 92, as Tony Dorsett ran for 160 yards on 22 carries.

Cowboys defensive tackle Randy White underscored the theme of the wild card game. "In that last game two weeks ago," he said, "they could run or pass or do whatever they wanted. This time by holding them on the run, we put [quarterback Vince] Ferragamo in a more predictable position." As a result, the Cowboys limited the Rams' passing attack to 175 yards. Ferragamo completed only 14 of 30 attempts and was intercepted three times.

The Cowboys broke a 13-13 halftime tie, using the early minutes of the third quarter to build a 63-yard drive that took eight plays and ended with a 10-yard scoring pass from Danny White to Dorsett. Before the period was out, White had connected on another touchdown pass, a 35-yarder to Butch Johnson.

The Cowboys' final scoring drive of the day turned the game into a systematized rout. White and Dorsett took them 95 yards in 11 plays. Drew Pearson caught an 11-yard pass for the touchdown.

Los Angeles	6	7	0	0	—13
Dallas	3	10	14	7	—34

Dall—FG Septien 28
LA —J. Thomas 1 run (kick failed)
LA —Dennard 21 pass from Ferragamo (Corral kick)
Dall—Dorsett 12 run (Septien kick)
Dall—Dorsett 10 pass from White (Septien kick)
Dall—B. Johnson 35 pass from White (Septien kick)
Dall—D. Pearson 11 pass from White (Septien kick)
Attendance—64,533

Below, left: *Houston quarterback Ken Stabler is visited again by former teammate Lester Hayes, who sacked Stabler two times (the Raiders' defense totaled seven) and intercepted him twice.* Right: *Dallas rushing leader Tony Dorsett rips through Rams' defense in Cowboys' victory.*

AFC Divisional Playoffs

JANUARY 3-4: BUFFALO VS. SAN DIEGO, OAKLAND VS. CLEVELAND

SAN DIEGO 20, BUFFALO 14

San Diego's three 1,000-yard receivers—tight end Kellen Winslow and wide receivers Charlie Joiner and John Jefferson—all lined up on the left side. Wide receiver Ron Smith lined up wide right.

"It's one of the oldest plays in the books," said Chargers quarterback Dan Fouts of what happened next. "They decided to double-cover J.J. and Charlie. Ron ran the deep post, and we wanted the home run. It's built into every play. I knew where I was going to go with it two steps into my drop."

Fouts went to Smith, who cut over the middle a step ahead of Buffalo defensive back Bill Simpson. Smith sprinted into the Bills' end zone with the touchdown that gave San Diego a 20-14 victory.

The play came with just over two minutes remaining in a game that spoke of resistance, frustration, and survival. San Diego lost tight end Gregg McCrary on its first possession. Buffalo quarterback Joe Ferguson reinjured his ankle on the Bills' first possession. The theme of the day was defense, almost a volley of one-upmanship between the Chargers' defensive line and the Bills' defensive secondary. In the end, two crucial breakdowns by the latter group proved Buffalo's undoing.

The first was a near-interception by cornerback Charles Romes, who had a chance to stop San Diego's winning drive on the play preceding the game-winner. Romes stepped in front of Jefferson and had an apparent interception, but the ball bounced off his chest. Then came Smith's matchup with Simpson, the former Los Angeles safety whom Bills coach Chuck Knox had coaxed out of a one-and-a-half-year retirement earlier in the season. "They had me in man-to-man coverage," Simpson said, "and I got beat."

Buffalo	0	14	0	0	— 14
San Diego	3	0	7	10	— 20

SD —FG Benirschke 22
Buff—Leaks 1 run (Mike-Mayer kick)
Buff—Lewis 9 pass from Ferguson (Mike-Mayer kick)
SD —Joiner 9 pass from Fouts (Benirschke kick)
SD —FG Benirschke 22
SD —Smith 50 pass from Fouts (Benirschke kick)
Attendance—52,028

OAKLAND 14, CLEVELAND 12

"I should have thrown it into Lake Erie," said Cleveland quarterback Brian Sipe.

"It" was the pass, on second down and nine from the Oakland 13 with 41 seconds left, that turned out to be the Browns' final offensive play of the 1980 season.

Trailing by two points, driving, in possession of their last time out, the Browns chose to put the ball in the air rather than lay low and set up a possible decisive field goal. Raiders safety Mike Davis intercepted the pass intended for tight end Ozzie Newsome.

"I'd rather bet on Sipe's arm," said Browns head coach Sam Rutigliano.

"I was baffled by the call," said Davis of the play he aborted.

"I was surprised," said Oakland quarterback Jim Plunkett.

"I was confident," said Cleveland kicker Don Cockroft, who earlier had missed two medium-range field goal attempts and the extra point attempt following the Browns' only touchdown. "I would have liked the opportunity. But I wasn't surprised by the call. I'm not surprised by anything we do. It's not my job to be surprised."

The Browns have become a team for which the unexpected is the expected. They came into the playoffs with a curious pattern running through their 32 previous games: 24 had been decided in the final two minutes.

Gusting winds and freezing temperatures pushed the chill factor to 37 degrees below zero before game time, resulting in slippery footing, stiff hands, and new rules of physics for kicked footballs. Oakland's usually prolific punter Ray Guy, for example, averaged less than 39 yards in nine attempts, well off his warm-air average of 55-plus a week ago. But talk of the weather became academic when Rutigliano made his final decision.

Oakland	0	7	0	7	— 14
Cleveland	0	6	6	0	— 12

Cle —Bolton 42 interception return (kick failed)
Oak—van Eeghen 1 run (Bahr kick)
Cle —FG Cockroft 30
Cle —FG Cockroft 29
Oak—van Eeghen 1 run (Bahr kick)
Attendance—77,655

Below, left: *San Diego wide receiver Ron Smith gets a step on Bill Simpson and has a clear path to the goal line with the touchdown catch that eliminates Buffalo.* Right: *Mike Davis's interception in front of Ozzie Newsome ends Cleveland's last-minute rally and sends Oakland to the AFC title game.*

NFC Divisional Playoffs

JANUARY 3-4: MINNESOTA VS. PHILADELPHIA, DALLAS VS. ATLANTA

PHILADELPHIA 31, MINNESOTA 16

Minnesota led Philadelphia 16-14 midway through the third quarter. The Vikings had just sacked Ron Jaworski in his end zone to gain the two-point advantage.

The Eagles got the ball and were forced to punt. The Vikings' defense was looking good. Maybe it would shut down Philadelphia for the rest of the afternoon.

Instead, after that, the Vikings' *offense* appeared almost dedicated to giving the ball back to the Eagles.

When Eddie Payton fumbled away Max Runager's punt after Philadelphia's brief possession following the safety, it was the first time the Vikings had dropped the ball in eight weeks. What happened in the next 22 minutes is best described by Vikings head coach Bud Grant: "The law of averages caught up with us." More specifically, Minnesota came out of that critical time span with eight turnovers and a 31-16 defeat.

Payton's fumble gave the Eagles the ball on Minnesota's 18. They finished the short scoring drive with a five-yard run by Wilbert Montgomery.

The Eagles' next two possessions began on the Vikings' 15 and 31. The results were a 33-yard field goal by Tony Franklin and a two-yard touchdown by Perry Harrington.

Trying to pass the Vikings back into contention, Tommy Kramer was intercepted four times (it happened five times during the game) in the fourth quarter. "He'd put the ball in the air about thirty times already," said Eagles defensive end Claude Humphrey, "which meant we hit him about thirty times. That has to make a body sore."

Minnesota	7	7	2	0	— 16
Philadelphia	0	7	14	10	— 31

Minn—White 30 pass from Kramer (Danmeier kick)
Minn—Brown 1 run (Danmeier kick)
Phil —Carmichael 9 pass from Jaworski (Franklin kick)
Phil —Montgomery 8 run (Franklin kick)
Minn—Safety, Jaworski tackled in end zone
Phil —Montgomery 5 run (Franklin kick)
Phil —FG Franklin 33
Phil —Harrington 2 run (Franklin kick)
Attendance—68,434

DALLAS 30, ATLANTA 27

Drew Pearson has been doing this sort of thing for years. Perhaps the best-known of his last-minute clutch receptions is the "Hail Mary" pass in the 1975 NFC playoffs.

History and nicknames aside, Pearson's 23-yard touchdown reception with 42 seconds left against Atlanta marked another step toward New Orleans and Super Bowl XV for the coach and team that have been there more times than any NFL team.

The winning touchdown sealed a six-play, 70-yard drive. It was Danny White's third scoring pass of the day and completed a 322-yard performance (25 for 39).

The Falcons opened the game in a fashion that might have preempted Landry's remark, had they been able to sustain the pattern. They took a 10-0 lead in the first 10 minutes of play, on a 38-yard field goal by Tim Mazzetti and a 60-yard bomb from Steve Bartkowski to Alfred Jenkins.

The Cowboys fought back to make the deficit 17-10, Atlanta, at halftime, but the Falcons got their offense going again and extended their lead to 24-10 in the third period. But the Cowboys outscored Atlanta 20-3 in the final quarter.

"It is a very empty feeling, losing in the playoffs," said Falcons head coach Leeman Bennett.

It wasn't intended as consolation, but in the winners' locker room, Landry commented, "The Falcons are on the verge of breaking out. This is just one of those disappointing moments all good young teams have on the way to the Super Bowl."

Dallas	3	7	0	20	— 30
Atlanta	10	7	7	3	— 27

Atl —FG Mazzetti 38
Atl —Jenkins 60 pass from Bartkowski (Mazzetti kick)
Dall—FG Septien 38
Dall—DuPree 5 pass from White (Septien kick)
Atl —Cain 1 run (Mazzetti kick)
Atl —Andrews 12 pass from Bartkowski (Mazzetti kick)
Dall—Newhouse 1 run (Septien kick)
Atl —FG Mazzetti 34
Dall—D. Pearson 14 pass from White (Septien kick)
Dall—D. Pearson 23 pass from White (kick failed)
Attendance—60,022

Below, left: *Minnesota's Ahmad Rashad stands by empty-handed as cornerback Herman Edwards intercepts Tommy Kramer in fourth quarter of Eagles' victory.* Right: *Drew Pearson clutches winning touchdown pass between Tom Pridemore and Rolland Lawrence as Cowboys defeat Falcons in the final minute.*

AFC Championship Game

JANUARY 11: OAKLAND VS. SAN DIEGO

OAKLAND 34, SAN DIEGO 27

Raiders coach Tom Flores stated it simply: "We came in with the idea of containing them. They score points, so we wanted to score, too."

That's usually the idea, but against the San Diego Chargers' high-powered offense, which is geared to the big play, no cushion ever seems adequate. Conversely, the Chargers' defensive line (a.k.a. The Bruise Brothers) is the NFL's most effective deterrent to any opponent's designs on scoring via the pass.

So it was according to plan—though not altogether expected at such an early juncture—that the Raiders burned the Chargers for a 65-yard touchdown pass on the third offensive play of the AFC championship game. The play started as a short-yardage maneuver to running back Kenny King cutting over the middle. King got a hand on Jim Plunkett's pass, but the ball sailed farther downfield and off line to the right, finding Oakland tight end Raymond Chester in full stride. Touchdown, Raiders.

The Chargers' initial drive was stopped when Oakland cornerback Lester Hayes stepped in front of Dan Fouts's pass at the Raiders' 10 yard line and recorded his fifth interception of the playoffs.

Oakland stalled, and the Chargers' next possession drew them even at 7-7. Fouts threw to wide receiver Charlie Joiner, who was double-covered in the end zone. Joiner stayed with the ball as it was tipped by Dwayne O'Steen and then bounced off his own helmet and into his hands.

So much for the *tete a tete*. Oakland would lead on the scoreboard and, more important, in the game of will, the rest of the way. On their next possession, the Raiders combined a 49-yard pass from Plunkett to Cliff Branch and an interference penalty against Chargers linebacker Ray Preston to set up a five-yard scramble-slide by Plunkett for a 14-7 lead.

Soon, running back King was picking on linebacker Preston again, this time for a 21-yard touchdown reception.

Trailing by 14 at the outset of the second quarter, the Chargers got fancy. After crossing the 50 yard line, Fouts lateraled to tight end Kellen Winslow, who was split wide to the right. Winslow wheeled and threw to wide receiver John Jefferson at the Oakland 16, and the Chargers' comeback appeared as well-lubricated as had the Raiders' come-on. But no. The Raiders went into a nickel defense, free safety Burgess Owens intercepted Fouts at the 1 and brought the ball out to the 26.

A drive later in the period did two things. It gave Oakland a 28-7 lead and it forced San Diego to press hard for a more reasonable halftime deficit. The Chargers did score, but their 13-play, 64-yard drive was erratic, sluggish toward its conclusion, hardly the flashpoint stuff that had inspired banners with slogans such as "Fly Air Coryell Nonstop to New Orleans," a homemade tribute to coach Don Coryell's entertaining pass offense.

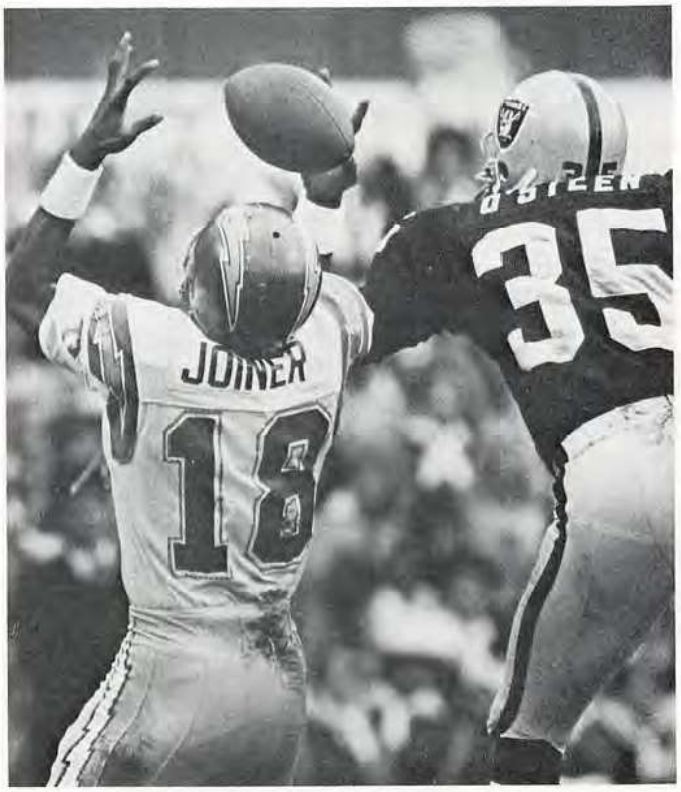
A shoulder injury to running back Chuck Muncie had placed the burden of San Diego's ground game on Mike Thomas. Muncie returned to action in the third quarter to momentarily revive the Chargers' offensive punch. With the ball on the Oakland 6 and the Chargers trailing 28-17, Muncie swept left end and brought them within four at 28-24. It was the closest they would come for the rest of the afternoon.

Oakland drove to field goals of 27 and 33 yards, scoring their final points with less than 10 minutes remaining. San Diego drove deep, and was limited to a field goal. Oakland's final drive was a masterpiece of third down conversion by Plunkett, who walked into the tunnel en route to the first Super Bowl appearance of his 10 year NFL career.

Oakland	21	7	3	3	— 34
San Diego	7	7	10	3	— 27

Oak—Chester 65 pass from Plunkett (Bahr kick)
SD —Joiner 48 pass from Fouts (Benirschke kick)
Oak—Plunkett 5 run (Bahr kick)
Oak—King 21 pass from Plunkett (Bahr kick)
Oak—van Eeghen 3 run (Bahr kick)
SD —Joiner 8 pass from Fouts (Benirschke kick)
SD —FG Benirschke 26
SD —Muncie 6 run (Benirschke kick)
Oak—FG Bahr 27
Oak—FG Bahr 33
SD —FG Benirschke 27
Attendance—52,428

Left: *Raiders open with Raymond Chester's 65-yard touchdown reception on pass tipped by Kenny King. Ray Preston can't recover.* Right: *Charlie Joiner hangs onto Dan Fouts's 48-yard touchdown pass, Chargers tie it at 7-7.*



NFC Championship Game

JANUARY 11: DALLAS VS. PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA 20, DALLAS 7

It was too cold to think. If your mind was clear enough for chill-factor arithmetic, you knew it was minus-17 degrees in Philadelphia. Tom Landry, who always wears a hat, knew enough to wear a *fur* hat. And fur ear muffs, and even a fur collar. A lot of good they did him.

Earlier in the week, the Eagles decided what they would wear. They would come out in their white jerseys rather than the traditional home green. The home team has its druthers. The Eagles knew the Cowboys had this superstition about wearing their blue jerseys. They didn't like to play in them. They liked white better. So the Eagles made them wear blue. Heh heh.

It went that way during the game, too. The Eagles started getting their way on the second play of the game, sending Wilbert Montgomery on a 42-yard touchdown run. It had been advertised that Montgomery entered the game resembling something like the index to *Gray's Anatomy*, with a catalogue of injuries from the waist down. Yet by the end of the day, Montgomery had gained 194 yards to come within two yards of former Eagles running back Steve Van Buren's NFL championship game rushing record.

Montgomery's touchdown came out of the I-formation, a setup ideally suited to his ability to select an opening in the defensive line. On this play, practically the entire right side was clear, and Montgomery, starting slightly to his left, took the ball from quarterback Ron Jaworski and cut sharply to the right. Dallas strong safety Charlie Waters gave chase but trailed Montgomery into the end zone by five yards.

The Eagles outgained the Cowboys 117 to 28 in the first quarter and held quarterback Danny White to minus passing yardage. But the Dallas offense put together a 10-play, 68-yard drive in the second period, highlighted by an 18-yard swing pass from White to Tony Dorsett. Dorsett, who was held to 41 yards rushing for the day, scored the Cowboys' only touchdown on a three-yard run.

Philadelphia missed a chance to lead by a touchdown at halftime, as Jaworski's scoring pass to Harold Carmichael was nullified when an official noticed the hand of Eagles guard Woody Peoples inside the facemask of Cowboys tackle John Dutton.

The third quarter opened with more trouble for the Eagles. Jaworski extended his string to 10 passes without a completion. Philadelphia couldn't capitalize even with the benefit of the game's first turnover. The Eagles' Billy Campfield recovered a fumble by punt returner James Jones at the Dallas 27, but three plays later Jaworski was intercepted by linebacker Anthony Dickerson.

The Cowboys' possession was short-lived, however, as Philadelphia went into a four-man defensive front, and Carl Hairston slammed into White, causing a fumble that was recovered by Dennis Harrison at the Dallas 9. Defensive backs Dennis Thurman and Waters kept the Eagles out of the end zone, breaking up two touchdown pass attempts to Carmichael, and Philadelphia settled for Tony Franklin's 26-yard field goal.

A third down pass to tight end Jay Saldi offered some encouragement to Cowboys supporters, but a third turnover signaled the Eagles' control of the game. Cornerback Roynell Young stripped Dorsett of the ball, and linebacker Jerry Robinson recovered at the Dallas 38. On second and four from the Cowboys' 9, Leroy Harris scored on a draw play from a double-wing formation.

Philadelphia marked time in the fourth quarter with a long drive to Franklin's second barefoot field goal of the day. All that remained was the celebration. Jaworski exhorted the crowd as mounted police and German shepherds entered the sideline areas in a fashion reminiscent of the Phillies' World Series victory. But the crowd control was superfluous. Nobody rioted. Warmed by their first championship in 20 years, Philadelphia's fans simply went home.

Dallas	0	7	0	0	— 7
Philadelphia	7	0	10	3	— 20

Phil—Montgomery 42 run (Franklin kick)
Dall—Dorsett 3 run (Septien kick)
Phil—FG Franklin 26
Phil—Harris 9 run (Franklin kick)
Phil—FG Franklin 20
Attendance—70,696

Below: *Philadelphia's Wilbert Montgomery leaves Dallas in an early state of shock with a 42-yard scoring run to give Eagles a 7-0 first quarter lead on their way to a 20-7 victory and a berth in Super Bowl XV in New Orleans.*

Pro Bowl

THE PLAYERS CHOSEN FOR THE AFC-NFC PRO BOWL, FEBRUARY 1 IN HONOLULU

American Football Conference

OFFENSE
Wide Receivers
John Jefferson ..... San Diego
Stanley Morgan ..... New England
Charlie Joiner ..... San Diego
Jerry Butler ..... Buffalo
Tackles
Marvin Powell ..... New York Jets
Doug Dieken ..... Cleveland
Art Shell ..... Oakland
Guards
John Hannah ..... New England
Joe DeLamielleure ..... Cleveland
Doug Wilkerson ..... San Diego
Centers
Mike Webster ..... Pittsburgh
Tom DeLeone ..... Cleveland
Tight Ends
Kellen Winslow ..... San Diego
Dave Casper ..... Houston
Quarterbacks
Brian Sipe ..... Cleveland
Dan Fouts ..... San Diego
Running Backs
Earl Campbell ..... Houston
Joe Cribbs ..... Buffalo
Mike Pruitt ..... Cleveland
Kenny King ..... Oakland

Players are listed by position and in order of total number of votes received. Prospective starters are in italics.

Ted Hendricks, AFC outside linebacker.

DEFENSE
Ends
Fred Dean ..... San Diego
Art Still ..... Kansas City
Julius Adams ..... New England
Tackles
Gary Johnson ..... San Diego
Louie Kelcher ..... San Diego
Fred Smerlas ..... Buffalo
Outside Linebackers
Robert Brazile ..... Houston
Ted Hendricks ..... Oakland
Jack Ham ..... Pittsburgh
Middle Linebackers
Jack Lambert ..... Pittsburgh
Steve Nelson ..... New England
Cornerbacks
Lester Hayes ..... Oakland
Mike Haynes ..... New England
Greg Stemrick ..... Houston
Safeties
Donnie Shell ..... Pittsburgh
Gary Barbaro ..... Kansas City
Tim Fox ..... New England

SPECIALISTS
Punter
Ray Guy ..... Oakland
Kicker
John Smith ..... New England
Kick Return Specialist
J.T. Smith ..... Kansas City

National Football Conference

OFFENSE
Wide Receivers
Harold Carmichael ..... Philadelphia
James Lofton ..... Green Bay
Ahmad Rashad ..... Minnesota
Pat Tilley ..... St. Louis
Tackles
Dan Dierdorf ..... St. Louis
Mike Kenn ..... Atlanta
Pat Donovan ..... Dallas
Guards
Herbert Scott ..... Dallas
Kent Hill ..... Los Angeles
Dennis Harrah ..... Los Angeles
Center
Rich Saul ..... Los Angeles
Jeff Van Note ..... Atlanta
Tight Ends
Jimmie Giles ..... Tampa Bay
Junior Miller ..... Atlanta
Quarterbacks
Steve Bartkowski ..... Atlanta
Ron Jaworski ..... Philadelphia
Running Backs
Walter Payton ..... Chicago
Ottis Anderson ..... St. Louis
William Andrews ..... Atlanta
Billy Sims ..... Detroit

Players are listed by position and in order of total number of votes received. Prospective starters are in italics.

Harold Carmichael, NFC wide receiver.

DEFENSE
Ends
Lee Roy Selmon ..... Tampa Bay
Al Baker ..... Detroit
Dan Hampton ..... Chicago
Tackles
Randy White ..... Dallas
Charlie Johnson ..... Philadelphia
Larry Brooks ..... Los Angeles
Outside Linebackers
Brad Van Pelt ..... New York Giants
Matt Blair ..... Minnesota
David Lewis ..... Tampa Bay
Middle Linebackers
Bob Breunig ..... Dallas
Jack Reynolds ..... Los Angeles
Cornerbacks
Lemar Parrish ..... Washington
Pat Thomas ..... Los Angeles
Rod Perry ..... Los Angeles
Safeties
Nolan Cromwell ..... Los Angeles
Randy Logan ..... Philadelphia
Gary Fencik ..... Chicago

SPECIALISTS
Punter
Dave Jennings ..... New York Giants
Kicker
Ed Murray ..... Detroit
Kick Return Specialist
Mike Nelms ..... Washington

Rushing

1980 NFL STATISTICAL LEADERS

LEADING RUSHERS	Att.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
AFC					
Earl Campbell, Houston	373	1934	5.2	55	13
Joe Cribbs, Buffalo	306	1185	3.9	48	11
Mike Pruitt, Cleveland	249	1034	4.2	56	6
Mark van Eeghen, Oakland	222	838	3.8	34	5
Chuck Muncie, San Diego	175	827	4.7	53	6
Vagas Ferguson, New England	211	818	3.9	44	2
Curtis Dickey, Baltimore	176	800	4.5	51	11
Franco Harris, Pittsburgh	208	789	3.8	26	4
Don Calhoun, New England	200	787	3.9	22	9
Kenny King, Oakland	172	761	4.4	89	4
Pete Johnson, Cincinnati	186	747	4.0	57	6
Charles Alexander, Cincinnati	169	702	4.2	37	2
Ted McKnight, Kansas City	206	693	3.4	25	3
Delvin Williams, Miami	187	671	3.6	65	2
Jim Jodat, Seattle	155	632	4.1	26	5
Scott Dierking, N.Y. Jets	156	567	3.6	15	6
Curtis Brown, Buffalo	153	559	3.7	34	3
Joe Washington, Baltimore	144	502	3.5	17	1
Mike Thomas, San Diego	118	484	4.1	18	3
Jim Jensen, Denver	101	476	4.7	32	2
NFC					
Walter Payton, Chicago	317	1460	4.6	69	6
Ottis Anderson, St. Louis	301	1352	4.5	52	9
William Andrews, Atlanta	265	1308	4.9	33	4
Billy Sims, Detroit	313	1303	4.2	52	13
Tony Dorsett, Dallas	273	1185	4.3	56	11
Lynn Cain, Atlanta	235	914	3.9	37	8
Ted Brown, Minnesota	219	912	4.2	55	8
Eddie Lee Ivery, Green Bay	202	831	4.1	38	3
Cullen Bryant, Los Angeles	183	807	4.4	20	3
Wilbert Montgomery, Philadelphia	193	778	4.0	72	8
Elvis Peacock, Los Angeles	164	777	4.7	36	7
Dexter Bussey, Detroit	145	720	5.0	40	3
Earl Cooper, San Francisco	171	720	4.2	47	5
Wilbur Jackson, Washington	176	708	4.0	55	3
Ricky Bell, Tampa Bay	174	599	3.4	40	2
Billy Taylor, N.Y. Giants	147	580	3.9	35	4
Gerry Ellis, Green Bay	126	545	4.3	22	5
Jerry Eckwood, Tampa Bay	149	504	3.4	35	2
Clarence Harmon, Washington	128	484	3.8	23	4
Wayne Morris, St. Louis	117	456	3.9	24	6

LONGEST RUNS

AFC—89 yards, touchdown, Kenny King, Oakland vs. San Diego, October 12

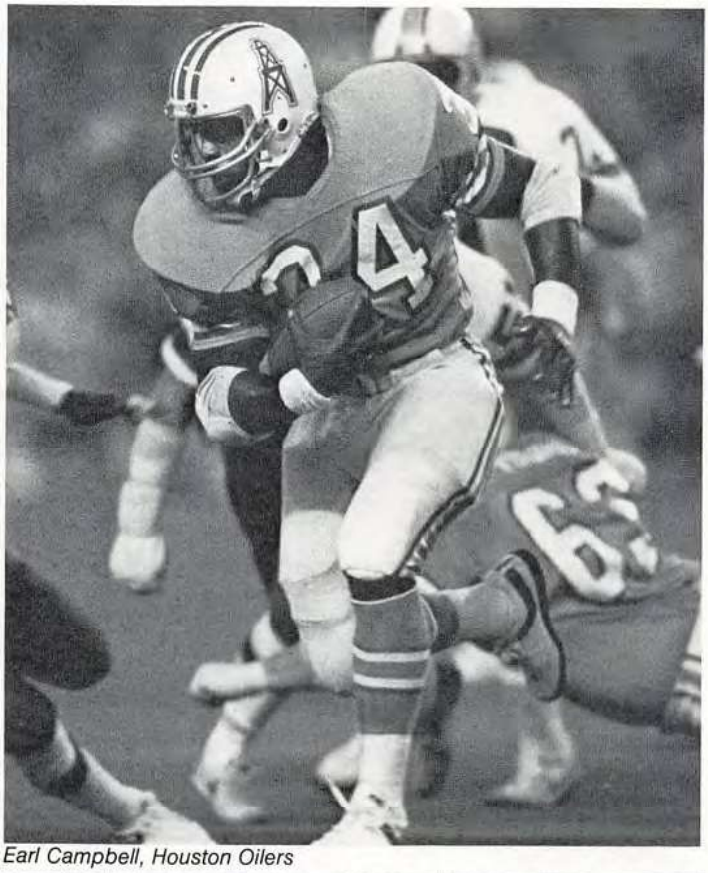
NFC—72 yards, touchdown, Wilbert Montgomery, Philadelphia vs. Minnesota, September 14

BEST PERFORMANCES

AFC—206 yards, 31 attempts, Earl Campbell, Houston vs. Chicago, November 16

NFC—183 yards, 18 attempts, one touchdown, Walter Payton, Chicago vs. New Orleans, September 14

NFC—183 yards, 25 attempts, two touchdowns, Tony Dorsett, Dallas vs. N.Y. Giants, November 9



Earl Campbell, Houston Oilers

Ottis Anderson, St. Louis Cardinals

Walter Payton, Chicago Bears

Passing

1980 NFL STATISTICAL LEADERS

LEADING PASSERS	Att.	Comp.	Pct. Comp.	Yds. Gnd.	Avg. Yds. Gained	TD Pass	Pct. TD	LP	Int.	Pct. Int.	Rating
AFC											
Brian Sipe, Cleveland	554	340	61.4	4132	7.46	30	5.4	65	14	2.5	91.9
Dan Fouts, San Diego	589	348	59.1	4715	8.01	30	5.1	65	24	4.1	84.6
Craig Morton, Denver	301	183	60.8	2150	7.14	12	4.0	41	13	4.3	77.9
Steve Fuller, Kansas City	320	193	60.3	2250	7.03	10	3.1	77	12	3.8	76.1
Bert Jones, Baltimore	446	248	55.6	3134	7.03	23	5.2	47	21	4.7	75.5
Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh	424	218	51.4	3339	7.88	24	5.7	68	22	5.2	75.1
Joe Ferguson, Buffalo	439	251	57.2	2805	6.39	20	4.6	69	18	4.1	74.6
Steve Grogan, New England	306	175	57.2	2475	8.09	18	5.9	71	22	7.2	73.1
Jim Zorn, Seattle	488	276	56.6	3346	6.86	17	3.5	67	20	4.1	72.4
Jim Plunkett, Oakland	320	165	51.6	2299	7.18	18	5.6	86	16	5.0	72.3
Ken Stabler, Houston	457	293	64.1	3202	7.01	13	2.8	79	28	6.1	68.6
Ken Anderson, Cincinnati	275	166	60.4	1778	6.47	6	2.2	67	13	4.7	67.1
David Woodley, Miami	327	176	53.8	1850	5.66	14	4.3	61	17	5.2	63.2
NFC											
Ron Jaworski, Philadelphia	451	257	57.0	3529	7.82	27	6.0	56	12	2.7	90.9
V. Ferragamo, Los Angeles	404	240	59.4	3199	7.92	30	7.4	74	19	4.7	89.7
Steve Bartkowski, Atlanta	463	257	55.5	3544	7.65	31	6.7	81	16	3.5	88.0
Joe Montana, San Francisco	273	176	64.5	1795	6.58	15	5.3	71	9	3.3	87.8
Gary Danielson, Detroit	417	244	58.5	3223	7.73	13	3.1	87	11	2.6	82.6
A. Manning, New Orleans	509	309	60.7	3716	7.30	23	4.5	56	20	3.9	81.8
Danny White, Dallas	436	260	59.6	3287	7.54	28	6.4	58	25	5.7	80.8
Joe Theismann, Washington	454	241	57.7	2962	6.52	17	3.7	54	16	3.5	75.1
Tommy Kramer, Minnesota	522	299	57.3	3582	6.86	19	3.6	76	23	4.4	72.1
Lynn Dickey, Green Bay	478	278	58.2	3529	7.38	15	3.1	69	25	5.2	70.0
Doug Williams, Tampa Bay	521	254	48.8	3396	6.52	20	3.8	61	16	3.1	69.7
Jim Hart, St. Louis	425	228	53.6	2946	6.93	16	3.8	69	20	4.7	68.7
Steve DeBerg, San Francisco	321	186	57.9	1990	6.22	12	3.7	93	17	5.3	66.5

LONGEST PASS PLAYS

NFC—93 yards, touchdown, Steve DeBerg to Freddie Solomon, San Francisco vs. Atlanta, September 28

AFC—86 yards, touchdown, Jim Plunkett to Clifford Branch, Oakland vs. Philadelphia, November 23

LEADING RECEIVERS	No.	Yards	Avg.	TDs
AFC				
Kellen Winslow, San Diego	89	1290	14.5	9
John Jefferson, San Diego	82	1340	16.3	13
Charlie Joiner, San Diego	71	1132	15.9	4
Steve Largent, Seattle	66	1064	16.1	6
Mike Pruitt, Cleveland (RB)	63	471	7.5	0
NFC				
Earl Cooper, San Francisco (RB)	83	567	6.8	4
Dwight Clark, San Francisco	82	991	12.1	8
James Lofton, Green Bay	71	1226	17.3	4
Ahmad Rashad, Minnesota	69	1095	15.9	5
Pat Tilley, St. Louis	68	966	14.2	6
Wes Chandler, New Orleans	65	975	15.0	6
Rickey Young, Minnesota (RB)	64	499	7.8	2

BEST PERFORMANCES

AFC—17 receptions, 160 yards, Clark Gaines, N.Y. Jets vs. San Francisco, September 21

NFC—12 receptions, 118 yards, Clarence Harmon, Washington vs. San Diego, December 7

LEADING INTERCEPTORS	No.	Yards	Long	TDs
AFC				
Lester Hayes, Oakland	13	273	62	1
Gary Barbaro, Kansas City	10	163	39	0
Ken Schroy, N.Y. Jets	8	91	82	1
Donnie Shell, Pittsburgh	7	135	67	0
Steve Freeman, Buffalo	7	107	47	1
Jack Tatum, Houston	7	100	35	0
Louis Breeden, Cincinnati	7	91	29	0
Eric Harris, Kansas City	7	54	41	0
Gerald Small, Miami	7	46	22	0
NFC				
Nolan Cromwell, Los Angeles	8	140	34	1
Joel Richardson, Atlanta	7	139	52	0
Lemar Parrish, Washington	7	13	9	0
Joe Lavender, Washington	6	96	51	1
Brenard Wilson, Philadelphia	6	79	41	0
Mark Murphy, Washington	6	58	28	0
Jimmy Allen, Detroit	6	38	23	0
John Turner, Minnesota	6	22	13	0
James Hunter, Detroit	6	20	13	0

LONGEST INTERCEPTION RETURNS

NFC—99 yards, touchdown, Johnnie Johnson, Los Angeles vs. Green Bay, September 21

AFC—93 yards, touchdown, Randy Gradishar, Denver vs. Cleveland, October 5

Brian Sipe, Cleveland Browns

Ron Jaworski, Philadelphia Eagles

Kellen Winslow, San Diego Chargers

Scoring and Kicking

1980 NFL STATISTICAL LEADERS

LEADING SCORERS, KICKING	EP	EPA	FG	FGA	Long	TP
AFC						
John Smith, New England	51	51	26	34	44	129
Rolf Benirschke, San Diego	46	48	24	36	53	118
Fred Steinfort, Denver	32	33	26	34	57	110
Chris Bahr, Oakland	41	44	19	37	48	98
Nick Lowery, Kansas City	37	37	20	26	57	97
Matt Bahr, Pittsburgh	39	42	19	28	48	96
Efren Herrera, Seattle	33	33	20	31	50	93
Don Cockroft, Cleveland	39	44	16	26	45	87
Toni Fritsch, Houston	26	27	19	24	46	83
NFC						
Ed Murray, Detroit	35	36	27	42	52	116
Tim Mazzetti, Atlanta	46	49	19	27	50	103
Frank Corral, Los Angeles	51	52	16	30	47	99
Tony Franklin, Philadelphia	43	48	16	31	51	96
Rafael Septien, Dallas	59	60	11	17	52	92
Rick Danmeier, Minnesota	33	38	16	26	47	81
Mark Moseley, Washington	27	30	18	33	52	81
Garo Yepremian, Tampa Bay	31	32	16	23	43	79
Ray Wersching, San Francisco	33	39	15	19	47	78
Joe Danelo, N.Y. Giants	27	27	16	24	51	75
Bob Thomas, Chicago	35	37	13	18	44	74
Benny Ricardo, New Orleans	31	34	10	17	47	61

LEADING SCORERS, TOUCHDOWNS	TDs	Rush	Rec.	Ret.	TP
AFC					
Earl Campbell, Houston	13	13	0	0	78
Curtis Dickey, Baltimore	13	11	2	0	78
John Jefferson, San Diego	13	0	13	0	78
Joe Cribbs, Buffalo	12	11	1	0	72
Bob Chandler, Oakland	10	0	10	0	60
Don Calhoun, New England	9	9	0	0	54
Jim Smith, Pittsburgh	9	0	9	0	54
Kellen Winslow, San Diego	9	0	9	0	54
Russ Francis, New England	8	0	8	0	48
NFC					
Billy Sims, Detroit	16	13	3	0	96
Tony Dorsett, Dallas	11	11	0	0	66
Ted Brown, Minnesota	10	8	2	0	60
Earnest Gray, N.Y. Giants	10	0	10	0	60
Wilbert Montgomery, Philadelphia	10	8	2	0	60
Freddie Solomon, San Francisco	10	0	8	2	60
Ottis Anderson, St. Louis	9	9	0	0	54
Lynn Cain, Atlanta	9	8	1	0	54
Harold Carmichael, Philadelphia	9	0	9	0	54
Earl Cooper, San Francisco	9	5	4	0	54
Junior Miller, Atlanta	9	0	9	0	54
Elvis Peacock, Los Angeles	9	7	2	0	54

BEST PERFORMANCES

NFC—24 points, four touchdowns, Earnest Gray, N.Y. Giants vs. St. Louis, September 7
AFC—18 points, three touchdowns, Jim Smith, Pittsburgh vs. Chicago, September 28
AFC—18 points, three touchdowns, Bob Chandler, Oakland vs. Seattle, October 26

John Smith, New England Patriots

Dave Jennings, New York Giants

LEADING PUNTERS	No.	Yards	Long	Avg.	Touch-backs	Blkd.	Re-turned	Ret. Yds.	Inside 20	Net Avg.
AFC										
Luke Prestridge, Denver	70	3075	57	43.9	6	0	52	443	10	35.9
Ray Guy, Oakland	71	3099	66	43.6	14	0	34	268	18	35.9
George Roberts, Miami	77	3279	71	42.6	8	2	42	339	18	35.2
Chuck Ramsey, N.Y. Jets	73	3096	59	42.4	10	1	46	369	15	34.1
Herman Weaver, Seattle	67	2798	62	41.8	7	2	42	476	14	31.6
Pat McInally, Cincinnati	83	3390	61	40.8	13	2	45	476	21	31.2
Craig Colquitt, Pittsburgh	61	2483	54	40.7	5	0	34	217	13	35.5
Cliff Parsley, Houston	67	2727	57	40.7	8	0	40	394	19	32.4
Bob Grupp, Kansas City	84	3317	57	39.5	8	1	44	289	23	33.7
Rick Partridge, San Diego	60	2347	55	39.1	3	1	43	359	10	31.6
Greg Cater, Buffalo	73	2828	61	38.7	16	1	34	204	12	31.1
Mike Bragg, Baltimore	83	3199	59	38.5	6	1	50	357	22	32.4
Johnny Evans, Cleveland	66	2530	56	38.3	7	0	38	245	12	32.5
Mike Hubach, New England	63	2392	69	38.0	2	0	28	237	12	33.6
NFC										
Dave Jennings, N.Y. Giants	94	4211	63	44.8	13	0	58	506	16	36.6
Tom Blanchard, Tampa Bay	88	3722	62	42.3	12	1	54	529	18	33.2
Tom Skladany, Detroit	72	3036	67	42.2	8	1	38	300	16	35.3
Larry Swider, St. Louis	99	4111	66	41.5	15	1	62	645	12	31.7
Jim Miller, San Francisco	77	3152	65	40.9	5	0	48	530	11	32.8
Danny White, Dallas	71	2903	58	40.9	11	0	32	215	17	34.8
Bob Parsons, Chicago	79	3207	61	40.6	10	0	46	415	16	32.8
Frank Corral, Los Angeles	76	3002	65	39.5	5	1	42	353	14	33.1
Russell Erxleben, New Orleans	89	3499	57	39.3	3	0	48	490	23	33.1
Max Runager, Philadelphia	75	2947	58	39.3	8	1	35	224	16	33.7
Mike Connell, Washington	85	3331	57	39.2	7	0	52	351	11	33.4
John James, Atlanta	79	3087	59	39.1	7	0	36	240	25	34.3
Greg Coleman, Minnesota	81	3139	65	38.8	8	0	42	259	20	33.6
David Beverly, Green Bay	86	3294	55	38.3	6	0	50	342	18	32.9

LONGEST PUNTS

AFC—71 yards, George Roberts, Miami vs. Oakland, November 2
NFC—67 yards, Tom Skladany, Detroit vs. Minnesota, November 9

LEADING PUNT RETURNERS	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
AFC					
J. T. Smith, Kansas City	40	581	14.5	75	2
Theo Bell, Pittsburgh	34	339	10.0	27	0
Roland James, New England	33	331	10.0	75	1
Mike Fuller, San Diego	30	298	9.9	31	0
Rick Upchurch, Denver	37	353	9.5	34	0
Ira Matthews, Oakland	48	421	8.8	34	0
NFC					
Ken Johnson, Atlanta	23	281	12.2	56	0
Freddie Solomon, San Francisco	27	299	11.0	57	2
Roy Green, St. Louis	16	168	10.5	57	1
James Jones, Dallas	54	548	10.1	52	0
Mike Nelms, Washington	48	437	10.1	64	0
Reggie Smith, Atlanta	27	262	9.7	25	0
Ray Williams, Detroit	27	259	9.6	53	0
Mark Bell, St. Louis	21	195	9.3	54	0
John Sciarra, Philadelphia	36	330	9.2	32	0

LONGEST PUNT RETURNS

AFC—75 yards, touchdown, Roland James, New England vs. N.Y. Jets, October 2
AFC—75 yards, touchdown, Will Lewis, Seattle vs. Denver, October 23
AFC—75 yards, touchdown, J. T. Smith, Kansas City vs. St. Louis, October 23
NFC—66 yards, Alvin Garrett, N.Y. Giants vs. St. Louis, September 7

LEADING KICKOFF RETURNERS	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TDs
AFC					
Horace Ivory, New England	36	992	27.6	98	1
Will Lewis, Seattle	25	585	23.4	54	0
Larry Brunson, Denver	40	923	23.1	53	0
Keith Wright, Cleveland	25	576	23.0	50	0
Carlos Carson, Kansas City	40	917	22.9	47	0
Nesby Glasgow, Baltimore	33	743	22.5	44	0
Frank Pollard, Pittsburgh	22	494	22.5	34	0
NFC					
Rich Mauti, New Orleans	31	798	25.7	52	0
Dave Williams, Chicago	27	666	24.7	95	1
James Owens, San Francisco	31	726	23.4	101	1
Roy Green, St. Louis	32	745	23.3	37	0
Jimmy Rogers, New Orleans	41	930	22.7	88	0
James Jones, Dallas	32	720	22.5	41	0

LONGEST KICKOFF RETURNS

NFC—101 yards, touchdown, James Owens, San Francisco vs. Detroit, November 2
AFC—98 yards, touchdown, Horace Ivory, New England vs. Baltimore, October 19

United Way salutes NFL volunteers

David Lewis, Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Ted McKnight, Kansas City Chiefs
Scott Studwell, Minnesota Vikings
Dave Lapham, Cincinnati Bengals
Randy Hughes, Dallas Cowboys
Tom DeLeone, Cleveland Browns
Wallace Francis, Atlanta Falcons
Joe Ehrmann, Baltimore Colts
Tom Lynch, Seattle Seahawks
Gifford Nielsen, Houston Oilers
Larry Brooks, Los Angeles Rams
Bill Thompson, Denver Broncos
Brian Kelley, New York Giants
Joe Theismann, Washington Redskins

Brian Kelley,
New York Giants

Larry McCarren, Green Bay Packers
Raymond Chester, Oakland Raiders
Steve Nelson, New England Patriots
Tommy Myers, New Orleans Saints
Charlie Joiner, San Diego Chargers
Willie Harper, San Francisco 49ers
Steve Furness, Pittsburgh Steelers
Keith Krepfle, Philadelphia Eagles
Mel Gray, St. Louis Cardinals
Ted Albrecht, Chicago Bears
Joe Ferguson, Buffalo Bills
Freddie Scott, Detroit Lions
Ed Newman, Miami Dolphins
Wesley Walker, New York Jets

because thanks to them, and thanks to you, it works for ALL OF US.

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1980 AFC Results

*Overtime

BALTIMORE COLTS

Sept. 7—at New York Jets	17-14
Sept. 14—PITTSBURGH	17-20
Sept. 21—at Houston	16-21
Sept. 28—NEW YORK JETS	35-21
Oct. 5—at Miami	30-17
Oct. 12—at Buffalo	17-12
Oct. 19—NEW ENGLAND	21-37
Oct. 26—ST. LOUIS	10-17
Nov. 2—at Kansas City	31-24
Nov. 9—CLEVELAND	27-28
Nov. 16—at Detroit	10-9
Nov. 23—at New England	21-47
Nov. 30—BUFFALO	28-24
Dec. 7—at Cincinnati	33-34
Dec. 14—MIAMI	14-24
Dec. 21—KANSAS CITY	28-38
W 7 L 9	**355-387**

BUFFALO BILLS

Sept. 7—MIAMI	17-7
Sept. 14—NEW YORK JETS	20-10
Sept. 21—at New Orleans	35-26
Sept. 28—OAKLAND	24-7
Oct. 5—at San Diego	26-24
Oct. 12—BALTIMORE	12-17
Oct. 19—at Miami	14-17
Oct. 26—NEW ENGLAND	31-13
Nov. 2—ATLANTA	14-30
Nov. 9—at New York Jets	31-24
Nov. 16—at Cincinnati	14-0
Nov. 23—PITTSBURGH	28-13
Nov. 30—at Baltimore	24-28
Dec. 7—LOS ANGELES*	10-7
Dec. 14—at New England	2-24
Dec. 21—at San Francisco	18-13
W 11 L 5	**320-260**

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Sept. 7—TAMPA BAY	12-17
Sept. 14—at Miami	16-17
Sept. 21—PITTSBURGH	30-28
Sept. 28—HOUSTON	10-13
Oct. 5—at Green Bay	9-14
Oct. 12—at Pittsburgh	17-16
Oct. 19—MINNESOTA	14-0
Oct. 26—at Houston	3-23
Nov. 2—SAN DIEGO	14-31
Nov. 9—at Oakland	17-28
Nov. 16—BUFFALO	0-14
Nov. 23—at Cleveland	7-31
Nov. 30—at Kansas City	20-6
Dec. 7—BALTIMORE	34-33
Dec. 14—at Chicago*	17-14
Dec. 21—CLEVELAND	24-27
W 6 L 10	**244-312**

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Sept. 7—at New England	17-34
Sept. 15—HOUSTON (Mon.)	7-16
Sept. 21—KANSAS CITY	20-13
Sept. 28—at Tampa Bay	34-27
Oct. 5—DENVER	16-19
Oct. 12—at Seattle	27-3
Oct. 19—GREEN BAY	26-21
Oct. 26—PITTSBURGH	27-26
Nov. 3—CHICAGO (Mon.)	27-21
Nov. 9—at Baltimore	28-27
Nov. 16—at Pittsburgh	13-16
Nov. 23—CINCINNATI	31-7
Nov. 30—at Houston	17-14
Dec. 7—NEW YORK JETS	17-14
Dec. 14—at Minnesota	23-28
Dec. 21—at Cincinnati	27-24
W 11 L 5	**357-310**

DENVER BRONCOS

Sept. 7—at Philadelphia	6-27
Sept. 14—DALLAS	41-20
Sept. 21—SAN DIEGO	13-30
Sept. 29—at New England (Mon.)	14-23
Oct. 5—at Cleveland	19-16
Oct. 13—WASHINGTON (Mon.)	20-17
Oct. 19—KANSAS CITY	17-23
Oct. 26—at New York Giants	14-9
Nov. 2—HOUSTON	16-20
Nov. 9—at San Diego	20-13
Nov. 16—NEW YORK JETS	31-24
Nov. 23—SEATTLE	36-20
Dec. 1—at Oakland (Mon.)	3-9
Dec. 7—at Kansas City	14-31
Dec. 14—OAKLAND	21-24
Dec. 21—at Seattle	25-17
W 8 L 8	**310-323**

HOUSTON OILERS

Sept. 7—at Pittsburgh	17-31
Sept. 15—at Cleveland (Mon.)	16-7
Sept. 21—BALTIMORE	21-16
Sept. 28—at Cincinnati	13-10
Oct. 5—SEATTLE	7-26
Oct. 12—at Kansas City	20-21
Oct. 19—TAMPA BAY	20-14
Oct. 26—CINCINNATI	23-3
Nov. 2—at Denver	20-16
Nov. 10—NEW ENGLAND (Mon.)	38-34
Nov. 16—at Chicago	10-6
Nov. 23—at New York Jets	28-31
Nov. 30—CLEVELAND	14-17
Dec. 4—PITTSBURGH (Thurs.)	6-0
Dec. 14—at Green Bay	22-3
Dec. 21—MINNESOTA	20-16
W 11 L 5	**295-251**

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Sept. 7—OAKLAND	14-27
Sept. 14—SEATTLE	16-17
Sept. 21—at Cleveland	13-20
Sept. 28—SAN DIEGO	7-24
Oct. 5—at Oakland	31-17
Oct. 12—HOUSTON	21-20
Oct. 19—at Denver	23-17
Oct. 26—DETROIT	20-17
Nov. 2—BALTIMORE	24-31
Nov. 9—at Seattle	31-30
Nov. 16—at San Diego	7-20
Nov. 23—at St. Louis	21-13
Nov. 30—CINCINNATI	6-20
Dec. 7—DENVER	31-14
Dec. 14—at Pittsburgh	16-21
Dec. 21—at Baltimore	38-28
W 8 L 8	**319-336**

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Sept. 7—at Buffalo	7-17
Sept. 14—CINCINNATI	17-16
Sept. 21—at Atlanta	20-17
Sept. 28—NEW ORLEANS	21-16
Oct. 5—BALTIMORE	17-30
Oct. 12—at New England	0-34
Oct. 19—BUFFALO	17-14
Oct. 27—at New York Jets (Mon.)	14-17
Nov. 2—at Oakland	10-16
Nov. 9—at Los Angeles	35-14
Nov. 16—SAN FRANCISCO	17-13
Nov. 20—SAN DIEGO* (Thurs.)	24-27
Nov. 30—at Pittsburgh	10-23
Dec. 8—NEW ENGLAND* (Mon.)	16-13
Dec. 14—at Baltimore	24-14
Dec. 20—NEW YORK JETS (Sat.)	17-24
W 8 L 8	**266-305**

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Sept. 7—CLEVELAND	34-17
Sept. 14—ATLANTA	21-37
Sept. 21—at Seattle	37-31
Sept. 29—DENVER (Mon.)	23-14
Oct. 5—at New York Jets	21-11
Oct. 12—MIAMI	34-0
Oct. 19—at Baltimore	37-21
Oct. 26—at Buffalo	13-31
Nov. 2—NEW YORK JETS	34-21
Nov. 10—at Houston (Mon.)	34-38
Nov. 16—LOS ANGELES	14-17
Nov. 23—BALTIMORE	47-21
Nov. 30—at San Francisco	17-21
Dec. 8—at Miami* (Mon.)	13-16
Dec. 14—BUFFALO	24-2
Dec. 21—at New Orleans	38-27
W 10 L 6	**441-325**

NEW YORK JETS

Sept. 7—BALTIMORE	14-17
Sept. 14—at Buffalo	10-20
Sept. 21—SAN FRANCISCO	27-37
Sept. 28—at Baltimore	21-35
Oct. 5—NEW ENGLAND	11-21
Oct. 12—at Atlanta	14-7
Oct. 19—SEATTLE	17-27
Oct. 27—MIAMI (Mon.)	17-14
Nov. 2—at New England	21-34
Nov. 9—BUFFALO	24-31
Nov. 16—at Denver	24-31
Nov. 23—HOUSTON*	31-28
Nov. 30—at Los Angeles	13-38
Dec. 7—at Cleveland	14-17
Dec. 14—NEW ORLEANS	20-21
Dec. 20—at Miami (Sat.)	24-17
W 4 L 12	**302-395**

OAKLAND RAIDERS

Sept. 7—at Kansas City	27-14
Sept. 14—at San Diego*	24-30
Sept. 21—WASHINGTON	24-21
Sept. 28—at Buffalo	7-24
Oct. 5—KANSAS CITY	17-31
Oct. 12—SAN DIEGO	38-24
Oct. 20—at Pittsburgh (Mon.)	45-34
Oct. 26—SEATTLE	33-14
Nov. 2—MIAMI	16-10
Nov. 9—CINCINNATI	28-17
Nov. 17—at Seattle (Mon.)	19-17
Nov. 23—at Philadelphia	7-10
Dec. 1—DENVER (Mon.)	9-3
Dec. 7—DALLAS	13-19
Dec. 14—at Denver	24-21
Dec. 21—at New York Giants	33-17
W 11 L 5	**364-306**

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Sept. 7—HOUSTON	31-17
Sept. 14—at Baltimore	20-17
Sept. 21—at Cincinnati	28-30
Sept. 28—CHICAGO	38-3
Oct. 5—at Minnesota	23-17
Oct. 12—CINCINNATI	16-17
Oct. 20—OAKLAND (Mon.)	34-45
Oct. 26—at Cleveland	26-27
Nov. 2—GREEN BAY	22-20
Nov. 9—at Tampa Bay	24-21
Nov. 16—CLEVELAND	16-13
Nov. 23—at Buffalo	13-28
Nov. 30—MIAMI	23-10
Dec. 4—at Houston (Thurs.)	0-6
Dec. 14—KANSAS CITY	21-16
Dec. 22—at San Diego (Mon.)	17-26
W 9 L 7	**352-313**

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Sept. 7—at Seattle	34-13
Sept. 14—OAKLAND*	30-24
Sept. 21—at Denver	30-13
Sept. 28—at Kansas City	24-7
Oct. 5—BUFFALO	24-26
Oct. 12—at Oakland	24-38
Oct. 19—NEW YORK GIANTS	44-7
Oct. 26—at Dallas	31-42
Nov. 2—at Cincinnati	31-14
Nov. 9—DENVER	13-20
Nov. 16—KANSAS CITY	20-7
Nov. 20—at Miami* (Thurs.)	27-24
Nov. 30—PHILADELPHIA	22-21
Dec. 7—at Washington	17-40
Dec. 13—SEATTLE (Sat.)	21-14
Dec. 22—PITTSBURGH (Mon.)	26-17
W 11 L 5	**418-327**

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Sept. 7—SAN DIEGO	13-34
Sept. 14—at Kansas City	17-16
Sept. 21—NEW ENGLAND	31-37
Sept. 28—at Washington	14-0
Oct. 5—at Houston	26-7
Oct. 12—CLEVELAND	3-27
Oct. 19—at New York Jets	27-17
Oct. 26—at Oakland	14-33
Nov. 2—PHILADELPHIA	20-27
Nov. 9—KANSAS CITY	30-31
Nov. 17—OAKLAND (Mon.)	17-19
Nov. 23—at Denver	20-36
Nov. 27—at Dallas (Thanks.)	7-51
Dec. 7—NEW YORK GIANTS	21-27
Dec. 13—at San Diego (Sat.)	14-21
Dec. 21—DENVER	17-25
W 4 L 12	**291-408**

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Buffalo	11	5	0	.688	320	260
New England	10	6	0	.625	441	325
Miami	8	8	0	.500	266	305
Baltimore	7	9	0	.438	355	387
N.Y. Jets	4	12	0	.250	302	395

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Cleveland	11	5	0	.688	357	310
Houston	11	5	0	.688	295	251
Pittsburgh	9	7	0	.563	352	313
Cincinnati	6	10	0	.375	244	312

Western Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
San Diego	11	5	0	.688	418	327
Oakland	11	5	0	.688	364	306
Kansas City	8	8	0	.500	319	336
Denver	8	8	0	.500	310	323
Seattle	4	12	0	.250	291	408

Wild Card Game
Oakland 27, Houston 7

Divisional Playoffs
San Diego 20, Buffalo 14
Oakland 14, Cleveland 12

Championship Game
Oakland 34, San Diego 27

1980 NFC Results

*Overtime

ATLANTA FALCONS

Sept. 7—at Minnesota	23-24
Sept. 14—at New England	37-21
Sept. 21—MIAMI	17-20
Sept. 28—at San Francisco	20-17
Oct. 5—DETROIT	43-28
Oct. 12—NEW YORK JETS	7-14
Oct. 19—at New Orleans	41-14
Oct. 26—LOS ANGELES	13-10
Nov. 2—at Buffalo	30-14
Nov. 9—at St. Louis*	33-27
Nov. 16—NEW ORLEANS	31-13
Nov. 23—CHICAGO	28-17
Nov. 30—WASHINGTON	10-6
Dec. 7—at Philadelphia	20-17
Dec. 14—SAN FRANCISCO	35-10
Dec. 21—at Los Angeles*	17-20
W 12 L 4	**405-272**

CHICAGO BEARS

Sept. 7—at Green Bay*	6-12
Sept. 14—NEW ORLEANS	22-3
Sept. 21—MINNESOTA	14-34
Sept. 28—at Pittsburgh	3-38
Oct. 6—TAMPA BAY (Mon.)	23-0
Oct. 12—at Minnesota	7-13
Oct. 19—DETROIT	24-7
Oct. 26—at Philadelphia	14-17
Nov. 3—at Cleveland (Mon.)	21-27
Nov. 9—WASHINGTON	35-21
Nov. 16—HOUSTON	6-10
Nov. 23—at Atlanta	17-28
Nov. 27—at Detroit* (Thanks.)	23-17
Dec. 7—GREEN BAY	61-7
Dec. 14—CINCINNATI*	14-17
Dec. 20—at Tampa Bay (Sat.)	14-13
W 7 L 9	**304-264**

DALLAS COWBOYS

Sept. 8—at Washington (Mon.)	17-3
Sept. 14—at Denver	20-41
Sept. 21—TAMPA BAY	28-17
Sept. 28—vs. Green Bay (Milw.)	28-7
Oct. 5—NEW YORK GIANTS	24-3
Oct. 12—SAN FRANCISCO	59-14
Oct. 19—at Philadelphia	10-17
Oct. 26—SAN DIEGO	42-31
Nov. 2—at St. Louis	27-24
Nov. 9—at New York Giants	35-38
Nov. 16—ST. LOUIS	31-21
Nov. 23—WASHINGTON	14-10
Nov. 27—SEATTLE (Thanks.)	51-7
Dec. 7—at Oakland	19-13
Dec. 15—at Los Angeles (Mon.)	14-38
Dec. 21—PHILADELPHIA	35-27
W 12 L 4	**454-311**

DETROIT LIONS

Sept. 7—at Los Angeles	41-20
Sept. 14—vs. Green Bay (Milw.)	29-7
Sept. 21—ST. LOUIS	20-7
Sept. 28—MINNESOTA	27-7
Oct. 5—at Atlanta	28-43
Oct. 12—NEW ORLEANS	24-13
Oct. 19—at Chicago	7-24
Oct. 26—at Kansas City	17-20
Nov. 2—SAN FRANCISCO	17-13
Nov. 9—at Minnesota	0-34
Nov. 16—BALTIMORE	9-10
Nov. 23—at Tampa Bay	24-10
Nov. 27—CHICAGO* (Thanks.)	17-23
Dec. 7—at St. Louis	23-24
Dec. 14—TAMPA BAY	27-14
Dec. 21—GREEN BAY	24-3
W 9 L 7	**334-272**

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Sept. 7—CHICAGO*	12-6
Sept. 14—DETROIT (Milw.)	7-29
Sept. 21—at Los Angeles	21-51
Sept. 28—DALLAS (Milw.)	7-28
Oct. 5—CINCINNATI	14-9
Oct. 12—at Tampa Bay*	14-14
Oct. 19—at Cleveland	21-26
Oct. 26—MINNESOTA	16-3
Nov. 2—at Pittsburgh	20-22
Nov. 9—SAN FRANCISCO (Milw.)	23-16
Nov. 16—at New York Giants	21-27
Nov. 23—at Minnesota	25-13
Nov. 30—TAMPA BAY (Milw.)	17-20
Dec. 7—at Chicago	7-61
Dec. 14—HOUSTON	3-22
Dec. 21—at Detroit	3-24
W 5 L 10 T 1	**231-371**

LOS ANGELES RAMS

Sept. 7—DETROIT	20-41
Sept. 11—at Tampa Bay (Thurs.)	9-10
Sept. 21—GREEN BAY	51-21
Sept. 28—at New York Giants	28-7
Oct. 5—SAN FRANCISCO	48-26
Oct. 12—at St. Louis	21-13
Oct. 19—at San Francisco	31-17
Oct. 26—at Atlanta	10-13
Nov. 2—NEW ORLEANS	45-31
Nov. 9—MIAMI	14-35
Nov. 16—at New England	17-14
Nov. 24—at New Orleans (Mon.)	27-7
Nov. 30—NEW YORK JETS	38-13
Dec. 7—at Buffalo*	7-10
Dec. 15—DALLAS (Mon.)	38-14
Dec. 21—ATLANTA*	20-17
W 11 L 5	**424-289**

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Sept. 7—ATLANTA	24-23
Sept. 14—PHILADELPHIA	7-42
Sept. 21—at Chicago	34-14
Sept. 28—at Detroit	7-27
Oct. 5—PITTSBURGH	17-23
Oct. 12—CHICAGO	13-7
Oct. 19—at Cincinnati	0-14
Oct. 26—at Green Bay	3-16
Nov. 2—at Washington	39-14
Nov. 9—DETROIT	34-0
Nov. 16—TAMPA BAY	38-30
Nov. 23—GREEN BAY	13-25
Nov. 30—at New Orleans	23-20
Dec. 7—at Tampa Bay	21-10
Dec. 14—CLEVELAND	28-23
Dec. 21—at Houston	16-20
W 9 L 7	**317-308**

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Sept. 7—SAN FRANCISCO	23-26
Sept. 14—at Chicago	3-22
Sept. 21—BUFFALO	26-35
Sept. 28—at Miami	16-21
Oct. 5—ST. LOUIS	7-40
Oct. 12—at Detroit	13-24
Oct. 19—ATLANTA	14-41
Oct. 26—at Washington	14-22
Nov. 2—at Los Angeles	31-45
Nov. 9—PHILADELPHIA	21-34
Nov. 16—at Atlanta	13-31
Nov. 24—LOS ANGELES (Mon.)	7-27
Nov. 30—MINNESOTA	20-23
Dec. 7—at San Francisco*	35-38
Dec. 14—at New York Jets	21-20
Dec. 21—NEW ENGLAND	27-38
W 1 L 15	**291-487**

NEW YORK GIANTS

Sept. 7—at St. Louis	41-35
Sept. 14—WASHINGTON	21-23
Sept. 22—at Philadelphia (Mon.)	3-35
Sept. 28—LOS ANGELES	7-28
Oct. 5—at Dallas	3-24
Oct. 12—PHILADELPHIA	16-31
Oct. 19—at San Diego	7-44
Oct. 26—DENVER	9-14
Nov. 2—at Tampa Bay	13-30
Nov. 9—DALLAS	38-35
Nov. 16—GREEN BAY	27-21
Nov. 23—at San Francisco	0-12
Nov. 30—ST. LOUIS	7-23
Dec. 7—at Seattle	27-21
Dec. 13—at Washington (Sat.)	13-16
Dec. 21—OAKLAND	17-33
W 4 L 12	**249-425**

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Sept. 7—DENVER	27-6
Sept. 14—at Minnesota	42-7
Sept. 22—N.Y. GIANTS (Mon.)	35-3
Sept. 28—at St. Louis	14-24
Oct. 5—WASHINGTON	24-14
Oct. 12—at N.Y. Giants	31-16
Oct. 19—DALLAS	17-10
Oct. 26—CHICAGO	17-14
Nov. 2—at Seattle	27-20
Nov. 9—at New Orleans	34-21
Nov. 16—at Washington	24-0
Nov. 23—OAKLAND	10-7
Nov. 30—at San Diego	21-22
Dec. 7—ATLANTA	17-20
Dec. 14—ST. LOUIS	17-3
Dec. 21—at Dallas	27-35
W 12 L 4	**384-222**

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Sept. 7—NEW YORK GIANTS	35-41
Sept. 14—at San Francisco*	21-24
Sept. 21—at Detroit	7-20
Sept. 28—PHILADELPHIA	24-14
Oct. 5—at New Orleans	40-7
Oct. 12—LOS ANGELES	13-21
Oct. 19—at Washington	0-23
Oct. 26—at Baltimore	17-10
Nov. 2—DALLAS	24-27
Nov. 9—ATLANTA*	27-33
Nov. 16—at Dallas	21-31
Nov. 23—KANSAS CITY	13-21
Nov. 30—at New York Giants	23-7
Dec. 7—DETROIT	24-23
Dec. 14—at Philadelphia	3-17
Dec. 21—WASHINGTON	7-31
W 5 L 11	**299-350**

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Sept. 7—at New Orleans	26-23
Sept. 14—ST. LOUIS*	24-21
Sept. 21—at New York Jets	37-27
Sept. 28—ATLANTA	17-20
Oct. 5—at Los Angeles	26-48
Oct. 12—at Dallas	14-59
Oct. 19—LOS ANGELES	17-31
Oct. 26—TAMPA BAY	23-24
Nov. 2—at Detroit	13-17
Nov. 9—vs. Green Bay (Milw.)	16-23
Nov. 16—at Miami	13-17
Nov. 23—NEW YORK GIANTS	12-0
Nov. 30—NEW ENGLAND	21-17
Dec. 7—NEW ORLEANS*	38-35
Dec. 14—at Atlanta	10-35
Dec. 21—BUFFALO	13-18
W 6 L 10	**320-415**

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Sept. 7—at Cincinnati	17-12
Sept. 11—LOS ANGELES (Thurs.)	10-9
Sept. 21—at Dallas	17-28
Sept. 28—CLEVELAND	27-34
Oct. 6—at Chicago (Mon.)	0-23
Oct. 12—GREEN BAY*	14-14
Oct. 19—at Houston	14-20
Oct. 26—at San Francisco	24-23
Nov. 2—NEW YORK GIANTS	30-13
Nov. 9—PITTSBURGH	21-24
Nov. 16—at Minnesota	30-38
Nov. 23—DETROIT	10-24
Nov. 30—vs. Green Bay (Milw.)	20-17
Dec. 7—MINNESOTA	10-21
Dec. 14—at Detroit	14-27
Dec. 20—CHICAGO (Sat.)	13-14
W 5 L 10 T 1	**271-341**

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Sept. 8—DALLAS (Mon.)	3-17
Sept. 14—at N.Y. Giants	23-21
Sept. 21—at Oakland	21-24
Sept. 28—SEATTLE	0-14
Oct. 5—at Philadelphia	14-24
Oct. 13—at Denver (Mon.)	17-20
Oct. 19—ST. LOUIS	23-0
Oct. 26—NEW ORLEANS	22-14
Nov. 2—MINNESOTA	14-39
Nov. 9—at Chicago	21-35
Nov. 16—PHILADELPHIA	0-24
Nov. 23—at Dallas	10-14
Nov. 30—at Atlanta	6-10
Dec. 7—SAN DIEGO	40-17
Dec. 13—N.Y. GIANTS (Sat.)	16-13
Dec. 21—at St. Louis	31-7
W 6 L 10	**261-293**

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Philadelphia	12	4	0	.750	384	222
Dallas	12	4	0	.750	454	311
Washington	6	10	0	.375	261	293
St. Louis	5	11	0	.313	299	350
N.Y. Giants	4	12	0	.250	249	425

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Minnesota	9	7	0	.563	317	308
Detroit	9	7	0	.563	334	272
Chicago	7	9	0	.437	304	264
Tampa Bay	5	10	1	.343	271	341
Green Bay	5	10	1	.343	231	371

Western Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Atlanta	12	4	0	.750	405	272
Los Angeles	11	5	0	.688	424	289
San Francisco	6	10	0	.375	320	415
New Orleans	1	15	0	.063	291	487

Wild Card Game
Dallas 34, Los Angeles 13

Divisional Playoffs
Philadelphia 31, Minnesota 16
Dallas 30, Atlanta 27

Championship Game
Philadelphia 20, Dallas 7

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Marlboro Red or Longhorn 100's—
you get a lot to like.
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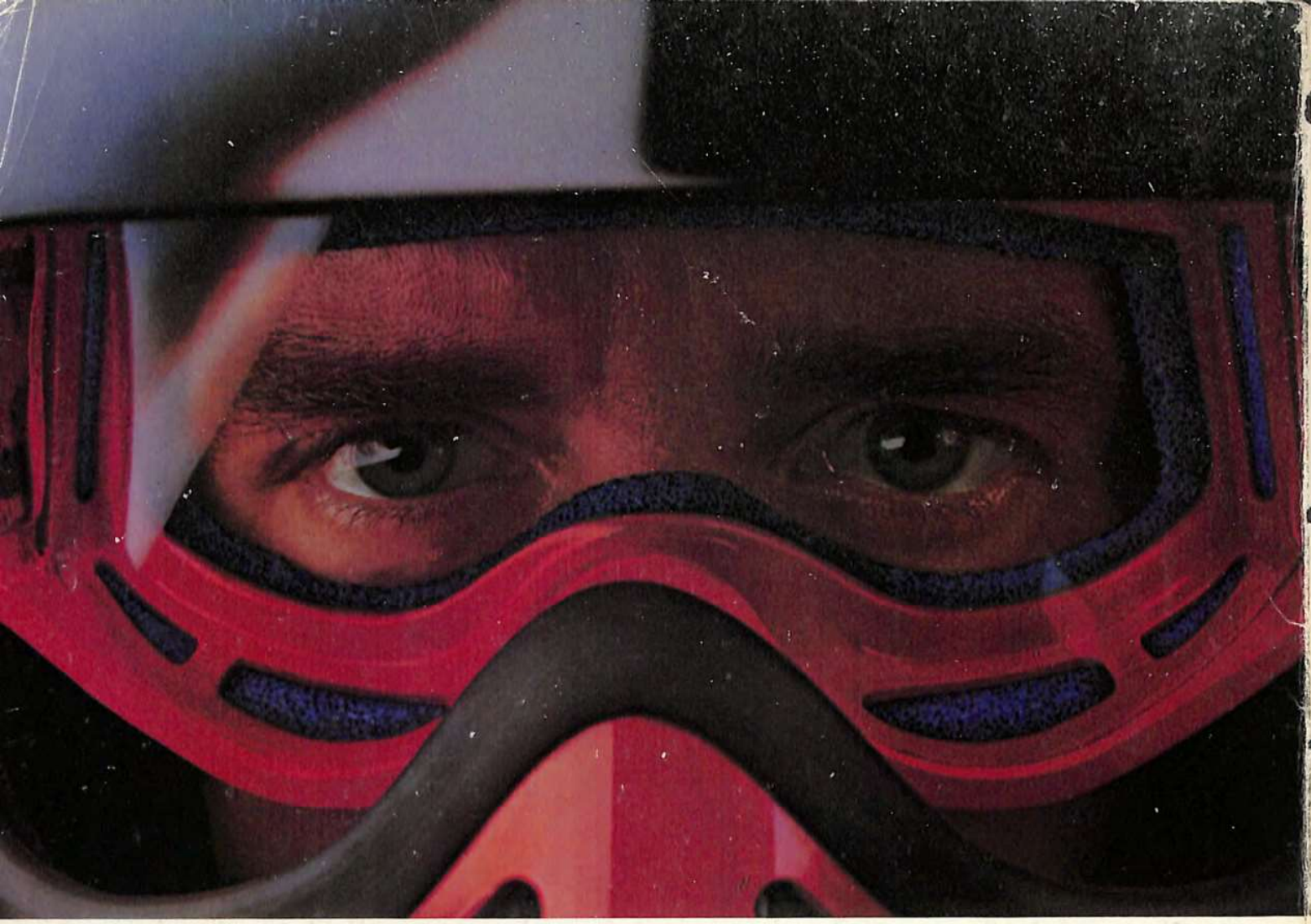
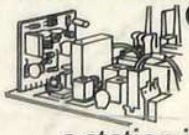
17 mg "tar," 1.1 mg nicotine av. per cigarette, FTC Report Dec.'79



Superb picture and more.
A PRP Circuit for 25% more sharpness.

We're moving television into the future. With more sharpness. More detail. More color picture resolution. Our new PRP (Peak Resolution Picture) Circuit gives you all the picture resolution a station is capable of transmitting.



Up to 330 lines of picture resolution. Zenith System 3. For superb picture. Dependability. And more. Now 25% more picture sharpness*. More picture detail.

*70 more lines of resolution than previous Zenith models. The PRP Circuit is available on 19" and 25" (diagonal) System 3 models.

Shown: The Panorama XIII, model SM2541X. Ultramodern styling with smooth, curvilinear silver color front. Simulated grained rosewood top and ends. Simulated TV picture.

ZENITH

SYSTEM 3

The quality goes in before the name goes on.®